

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 10, 2014

Dear Chairman Wyden:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to share our objectives regarding 21st century trade agreements and the enhanced congressional oversight needed to ensure that U.S. trade pacts deliver benefits for most Americans, promote broadly shared prosperity, and safeguard the environment and public health. Our organizations oppose the Fast Track model of trade authority and believe that it must be replaced with a new system for negotiating and implementing trade agreements that provides for more congressional and public accountability.

Today's proposed trade agreements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), extend far beyond traditional trade issues such as tariffs. The TPP is a massive 29-chapter agreement that would establish binding rules on issues related to labor rights, energy and the environment, medicine pricing, patents and copyright, food and product safety, Internet freedom and innovation, government procurement, financial regulation, immigration, healthcare, and more. Similarly, TTIP is an expansive agreement that will focus mainly on eliminating so-called "non-tariff" or "technical" barriers to trade—namely behind-the-border domestic regulatory policies. Indeed, the TTIP is focused more on how national or regional policies are made and the uniformity of regulatory standards than on international trade in its traditional sense.

The old Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority is simply not appropriate given the subject matter covered by today's pacts, such as TPP and TTIP. For this reason, we oppose "The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act" (S. 1900), which replicates the overly broad delegation of Congress's constitutional authorities that was provided in the 2002 Fast Track and allows the executive branch to unilaterally select negotiating partner countries, negotiate terms, decide when negotiations are complete and then sign a final pact *before* the full Congress has had an opportunity to approve the contents. Pursuant to S. 1900, signed pacts could then be rushed through Congress—regardless of whether congressional negotiating objectives have been met—with a guaranteed vote in 90 days under rules that circumvent ordinary review, amendment and debate procedures.

In order to deal with today's complex trade agreements and accelerating globalization, a 21st century trade authority that includes enhanced mechanisms for Congress to exercise its constitutional authority over U.S. trade policy is needed. While it is important that Congress develop negotiating mandates that outline what all U.S. trade agreements must and must not include, as explained below, even more important is the replacement of the outdated and failed Fast Track *procedures*. Any agreement that will be considered for expedited approval (i.e. limited debate and no amendments) must include robust and binding provisions that truly mark it as a "21st Century Trade Agreement." However, including strong mandates without a system to guarantee the mandates have been achieved is like having a speeding limit in a school zone

without any enforcement personnel. To that end, in this new model of trade authority, expedited consideration of completed agreements should *only* be available if and when Congress determines that its negotiating objectives have been satisfied and the executive branch has abided by requirements for increased congressional and public oversight over the entire process.

To achieve improved accountability and outcomes, this enhanced process should include:

1. Congressional role in selecting appropriate trade partners: Congress should set criteria, including with respect to human and labor rights compliance, environmental and public health standards, and market access opportunities for U.S. exporters, to determine whether a country is an appropriate trading partner for the United States. Congress must also have the opportunity to determine that a country proposed by the executive branch does not meet such criteria before negotiations commence and is unlikely to be an appropriate partner in the near term, in which case the trade agreement would not qualify for expedited procedures.

2. Mandatory negotiating objectives to ensure trade agreements deliver broad benefits: Congress should set mandatory negotiating objectives outlining what all U.S. trade agreements *must* and *must not* include. Congress must have the opportunity to add agreement-specific objectives.

3. Enhanced transparency to ensure meaningful congressional and public input: The Office of the United States Trade Representative must conduct broad, specific, and systematic congressional and public briefings on the progress that negotiators are making towards meeting the established negotiating objectives. In addition, negotiating texts should be made available to the public so that all stakeholders have the information to provide informed input to elected and appointed officials on the implications of the trade deal.

4. Congressional certification that trade goals have been met before trade negotiations are concluded: When executive branch negotiators believe that they have concluded negotiations, a final text must be released publicly and Congress must certify that the negotiating objectives have been satisfied before the text of a pact can be deemed final. Only such certification could trigger an expedited vote by Congress to approve the agreement.

5. Congressional approval of trade agreements and authorization for the executive branch to sign and enter into agreements: Congress would vote on trade agreements using expedited procedures only if the requirements enumerated above were met. Requiring explicit congressional approval to sign and enter into the agreement enables Congress to ensure that an agreement's contents are acceptable at a time when changes could still be made, if necessary.

6. A mechanism for a sizeable minority of the House or Senate to obtain a vote on a resolution to remove an agreement from expedited consideration: As an additional safeguard, a sizeable minority in either chamber should be able to get a privileged floor vote in either chamber on a resolution to withdraw expedited consideration for any pact for a variety of reasons, such as lack of Congressional or public consultation/input or clear breach of negotiating objectives.

7. Trade negotiating authority must be considered in conjunction with related trade and economic policy legislation. For example, trade rules that cannot be enforced provide no real benefits for the American people, our environment, or our economy. Moreover, increased trade without concurrent investments in our infrastructure and workforce will surely result in lost opportunities. Addressing long-standing economic problems such as wage suppression and economic inequality will take more than new trade pacts.

Over the course of our nation's history, Congress has regularly created new trade authority mechanisms as the subject matter of agreements changed. We urge you to seize the historic opportunity to replace the outdated Fast Track procedures that our organizations so strongly oppose and create a new trade negotiating and approval process that would help deliver trade agreements that could benefit workers, communities, and the environment and, therefore, rebuild broad support for trade agreements.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

350.org	Consumer Federation of America
ActionAid USA	Corporate Accountability International
Alliance for Democracy	Cultural Survival
Alliance for Retired Americans	Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
Amazon Watch	Domestic Fair Trade Association
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)	Earthjustice
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)	Economic Policy Institute
American Federation of Teachers	Environmental Investigation Agency
American Friends Service Committee	Ethix Ventures Inc.
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)	Fair World Project
American Medical Student Association – Just Medicine Campaign	Family Farm Defenders
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)	Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA)	Fight for the Future
Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers	Food & Water Watch
Backbone Campaign	Food Chain Workers Alliance
Black Alliance for Just Immigration	Food Empowerment Project
BlueGreen Alliance	Free Speech for People
Breast Cancer Action	Friends of the Earth, US
Campaign for America's Future	Global Exchange
Center for Biological Diversity	GMO Free USA
Center for Effective Government	Gray Panthers
Center for Food Safety	Green America
Center for International Environmental Law	Greenpeace
Citizens Trade Campaign	Health Alliance International
Colombia Support Network	Health Care without Harm
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach	Health GAP (Global Access Project)
Common Cause	Holy Cross International Justice Office
Communications Workers of America	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Conference of Major Superiors of Men	Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project
	International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
	International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

International Brotherhood of Teamsters	Physicians for a National Health Program
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE)	Physicians for Social Responsibility
International Labor Rights Forum	Popular Resistance
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers	Presbyterian Church USA
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)	Progressive Democrats of America
IUE-CWA, Industrial Division of the Communications Workers of America	Public Citizen
Jobs With Justice	Quaker Earthcare Witness
Just Foreign Policy	RootsAction.org
Justice Party	School of the Americas Watch
Labor Network for Sustainability	Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
League of Conservation Voters	Sierra Club
Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team
Medical Mission Sisters Alliance for Justice	Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA)
Moana Nui	Sr. of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Move To Amend	SumOfUs.org
MoveOn.Org	Task Force on the Americas
NAACP	The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
National Black Rank and File Exchange	The Rachel Carson Council, Inc.
National Family Farm Coalition	Unitarian Universalist Global AIDS Coalition
National Hmong American Farmers, Inc	UNITE HERE
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association	United Brotherhood of Carpenters
National Nurses Organizing Committee / National Nurses United	United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
Natural Resources Defense Council	United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby	United Mineworkers of America
New Rules for Global Finance	United Steelworkers
Nicaragua Center for Community Action	United Students Against Sweatshops
Oil Change International	United Students for Fair Trade
OpenMedia International	Universities Allied for Essential Medicines
People for the American Way	WarIsACrime.org
	Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC)
	Women's Voices for the Earth
	Worldview

Local, State, and Regional Organizations:

12th Congressional District Chapter of Progressive Democrats of America	Aerospace Machinists Dist Lodge 751
350 Central Maine	Africa Connections, First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon
350 Maine	AFSCME 2748 Chapter 10
350 CT	AFSCME Council 5
350 Seattle	AFSCME Council 65
7th District West of Illinois Move-On Chapter	AFSCME Local 1542
a2mc (Access to Medicines Coalition)	AFSCME Local 1624
ACC / AFT Local 6249	AFSCME Local 3214
ACLCL AFL-CIO	AFSCME Local 3214
Activate CT	AFSCME Local 34

AFSCME Local 3800
 AFSCME Local 4001
 AFSCME Local 668
 AFT – Oregon
 Alliance for Democracy - Oregon
 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005
 American Association of Retirees, a California
 nonprofit corporation
 American Federation of Government Employees,
 Local 3937
 American Indian Mothers Inc.
 American Postal Workers Union, Minneapolis Area
 Local
 American Postal Workers Union, St. Paul Area Local
 Americans for Democratic Action Hawaii
 Americans for Democratic Action Iowa
 Americans for Democratic Action of Southeastern
 Penna. Chapter
 Americans for Democratic Action Southern California
 Americans for Democratic Action, Northeast Ohio
 ATU Local 1091
 Austin Central Labor Council
 Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera
 Awake Miami
 BCTGM Local 167G
 BCTGM Local 267G
 BCTGM Local 369G
 Berks Gas Truth
 BLET-MNSLB
 BlueGreen Alliance, Minnesota
 Bronx River Bicycle Works
 Brooklyn For Peace
 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen
 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen
 Washington State Legislative Board
 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen
 Massachusetts State Legislative Board
 California Farmers Union
 Carpenters Local Union 1209
 Carpenters Local Union 223
 Carpenters Local Union 318
 Carpenters Local Union 318
 Carpenters Local Union 322
 Carpenters Local Union 345
 Carpenters Local Union 361
 Carpenters Local Union 50
 Carpenters Local Union 74
 Cascade AIDS Project
 Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
 Cement Masons and Plasters Local 633
 Center for Family Farm Development, Inc.
 Central Co-op
 Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL)
 CFTC – CT Fair Trade Coalition
 Chester County Council AFL-CIO
 Chicago Democratic Socialists of America
 Chicago Fair Trade
 Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin
 America
 Church Council of Greater Seattle
 Citizens' Environmental Coalition
 Cleveland Jobs with Justice
 Climate Action Business Association
 Cloutman & Cloutman, LLP
 Coastal Bend Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Colorado State Legislative Board BLE & T
 Columbia Pacific Alliance for Social Justice
 Communications Workers of America District 7
 Communications Workers of America State Council
 Community Action for Justice in the Americas, Africa
 and Asia (CAJA-3)
 Community Alliance for Global Justice
 Community Alliance of Lane County
 Community to Community Development
 Concerned Families of Westchester
 Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
 Connecticut Justice Party
 Connecticut State Council of Machinists
 Construction & General Laborers Local 154
 Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers
 CWA District 2-13
 CWA District 6
 CWA Local 1111
 CWA Local 6132
 CWA Local 6215
 CWA Local 6222
 CWA Local 7777
 CWA Local 7901
 Dakota Resource Council (ND)
 Dakota Rural Action (SD)
 Dallas AFL-CIO
 Dallas Building Trades Council, AFL-CIO
 Delaware Riverkeeper Network
 Democracy in Action Chicago
 Denver Justice & Peace Committee
 Divas Fair Trade
 DownRiver Alliance
 DSA Austin
 East Central Area Labor Council
 Eastern Michigan Federation of Teachers
 Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM

Economic Justice Action Group of First Unitarian Church
 Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC
 El Paso Building & Construction Trades Council
 Elevator Constructors Local 21
 Elevator Constructors Local 9
 Empire State Consumer Project
 Esperanza Peace & Justice Center
 Fairmont, MN Peace Group
 Faith Action Network
 Farms Not Arms
 Farmworker Association of Florida
 Fernandez Ranch
 Florida AFL-CIO
 Florida Alliance for Retired Americans
 Food for Maine's Future
 Fort Worth MoveOn Council
 Fort Worth Professional Firefighters
 Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)
 Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
 Frack Free Illinois
 GCC / IBT Local 4535M
 General Teamsters Local 326
 GMO Free Florida
 Grand Rapids CAT Team
 Grassroots Coalition
 Greater Danbury MoveOn.Org Council
 Green Ministry Team First Presbyterian Church Bend, OR.
 Harris County AFL-CIO Council
 HartBeat Ensemble
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 Houston Federation of Teachers
 Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council
 IAMAW Airline Local 1833
 IAMAW Capitol City and Minneapolis Metal Workers Lodge 459
 IAMAW District 165
 IAMAW Local Lodge 1037
 IAMAW Local Lodge 112
 IAMAW Local Lodge 126
 IAMAW Local Lodge 1956
 IAMAW Local Lodge 2198
 IAMAW Local Lodge 623
 IAMAW Local Lodge 737
 IAMAW Local Lodge 1005
 IAMAW Minnesota State Council
 IBEW 3rd District
 IBEW Local 1253
 IBEW Local 160
 IBEW Local 242
 IBEW Local 278
 IBEW Local 294
 IBEW Local 31
 IBEW Local 46
 IBEW Local 520
 IBEW Local 66
 IBEW Local 716
 IBT - Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen - Texas State Legislative Board
 Illinois Stewardship Alliance
 Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming
 Insulators LU 22
 International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 1175
 International Union of Operating Engineers Local 286
 Iron Workers Local Union # 482
 Ironworkers Local 263
 Iroquois Valley Farms, LLC
 IUE-CWA Local 1140
 JOBS NOW Coalition
 Jobs with Justice of South Sound
 Joint Council of Teamsters No.37
 Jubilee Oregon
 Kitsap Central Labor Council
 KKI
 Label GMOs.org
 Laborers District Council of MN & ND
 Land Stewardship Project
 LCLAA Gulf Coast Chapter
 League of Rural Voters
 Lehigh Valley Gas Truth
 Lehigh Valley Group, Sierra Club
 Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club
 Lubbock Central Labor Council
 Maine Fair Trade Campaign
 Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
 Maine People's Alliance
 MaineXChange
 MAPE
 Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas
 Marion Polk Move to Amend
 Maryland United for Peace and Justice
 Mata Traders
 Mid-South Carpenters Regional Council
 Millwrights Local 548
 Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition
 Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation
 Minnesota AFL-CIO
 Minnesota Building and Construction Trades
 Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Industrial Union Council
 Minnesota Nurses Association
 Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
 Minnesota State Council of Machinists IAM&AW
 Minnesota Teamsters Joint Council 32
 Missouri ProVote
 Missouri Rural Crisis Center
 Montanans Against the TPP
 MoveOn Desert Council
 MoveOn Los Angeles Council
 MoveOn Metro Denver Council
 MoveOn.org/PDX
 Nat'l Assn of Letter Carriers, Branch 9
 NC State AFL-CIO
 NEOGAP (Network for Oil and Gas Accountability
 and Protection)
 NH Right To Know GMO
 North American Intertribal Missions
 North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
 North East Area Labor Council
 North Texas Jobs with Justice
 Northeastern Illinois Chapter, Americans for
 Democratic Action
 Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice
 Northern Plains Resource Council (MT)
 NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 NY4WHALES
 NYC Friends of Clearwater
 Occupy Bellingham
 Occupy Coachella Valley
 Occupy Fort Stockton
 Occupy Naperville
 Ocean Spirit Massage
 Ohio Fair Trade Campaign
 Olympic Climate Action
 OPEIU Local 12
 Oregon AFL-CIO
 Oregon AFSCME Council 75
 Oregon Fair Trade Campaign
 Oregon Machinist Council
 Oregon Progressive Party
 Oregon Rural Action
 Oregon Steelworkers
 Organization of Staff Analysts
 PA Conference of Teamsters
 PA Fair Trade Coalition
 PDA Desert Chapter
 Peace Action Bay Ridge Interfaith
 Peace Action, Maine Chapter
 Peace House
 PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick, Maine
 People For Positive Action of Plattsburgh, NY
 Pennsylvania Council of Churches
 Pierce County Central Labor Council
 Pipefitters Local Union 211
 Pittsburgh LCLAA
 Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 142
 Plumbers Local 68
 Portland Central America Solidarity Committee
 Portland Healthcare Action Group
 Portland Jobs with Justice
 Powder River Basin Resource Council
 Presbytery of the Twin Cities
 Progressive Democrats of America – Illinois
 Progressive Democrats of America-Tucson Chapter
 Protect Biodiversity in Public Forests
 Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
 Regla de Oro
 RLM Arts
 San Antonio AFL-CIO
 San Antonio Labor Council for Latin American
 Advancement
 San Diego Maquiladora Workers Solidarity Network
 (SDMWSN)
 Sane Energy Project
 Seattle CISPES
 Seattle Education Association
 SEIU / NCFO Chapter 1016 Local 32BJ
 SEIU 503, OPEU
 SEIU Local 63
 SEIU MN State Council
 Sheet Metal Workers Local 10
 Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union #54
 Sierra Club – Connecticut Chapter
 Sierra Club – Oregon Chapter
 Sierra Club Lehigh Valley (PA)
 Sierra Club North Star Chapter
 Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
 Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San
 Antonio, TX
 SMART Local 565
 South Florida LCLAA
 South Florida Voices for Working Families
 South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign
 South Suburban Council MoveOn.org
 Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council
 Southeast MN Alliance of Peacemakers
 Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
 Southwest Ohio Green PAC
 St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America
 St. Paul Regional Labor Federation
 Steelworkers Local 9528 CTAPE

Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts
Take Back America for the People
Tarrant County CLC, AFL-CIO
Teamsters Joint Council 10
Teamsters Joint Council 13
Teamsters Joint Council 16
Teamsters Joint Council 25
Teamsters Joint Council 28
Teamsters Joint Council 3
Teamsters Joint Council 37
Teamsters Joint Council 39
Teamsters Joint Council 42
Teamsters Joint Council 55
Teamsters Joint Council 56
Teamsters Joint Council 58
Teamsters Joint Council 7
Teamsters Joint Council 73
Teamsters Joint Council 80
Teamsters Joint Council 80
Teamsters Local 100
Teamsters Local 102
Teamsters Local 102
Teamsters Local 117
Teamsters Local 118
Teamsters Local 1199
Teamsters Local 150
Teamsters Local 170
Teamsters Local 179
Teamsters Local 190
Teamsters Local 2011
Teamsters Local 245
Teamsters Local 26
Teamsters Local 29
Teamsters Local 294
Teamsters Local 317
Teamsters Local 317
Teamsters Local 324
Teamsters Local 325
Teamsters Local 325
Teamsters Local 344
Teamsters Local 38
Teamsters Local 414
Teamsters Local 455
Teamsters Local 480
Teamsters Local 495
Teamsters Local 522
Teamsters Local 572
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Teamsters Local 769
Teamsters Local 777
Teamsters Local 79
Teamsters Local 830
Teamsters Local 838
Teamsters Local 890
Teamsters Local 988
Teamsters Local 988
Teamsters Local 997
Teamsters Local 997
Texas AFL CIO
Texas Alliance for Retired Americans
Texas American Federation of Teachers
Texas Fair Trade Coalition
Texas NAACP
Texas State Association of Electrical Workers
Texas State Building Trades Council
Texas State Council of Machinists
Texas Young Active Labor Leaders
The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester
Traditions Fair Trade
Truck Drivers Local 449
UE Western Region
UFCW 555
UFCW Local 21
Union House
UNITE HERE Minnesota
United Association Local 529
United Auto Workers Local 2125
United Auto Workers Local 879
United Auto Workers Local 958
United Auto Workers Minnesota State CAP Council
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1189
United Transportation Union, MN Legislative Council
University of MN Labor Education Service
USW District 10
USW District 11
USW District 13
USW Local 1016
USW Local 11-75

USW Local 1188
USW Local 1219
USW Local 12698
USW Local 13-227
USW Local 1329
USW Local 13-620
USW Local 1408
USW Local 1408
USW Local 2002
USW Local 264
USW Local 2660
USW Local 364
USW Local 3657
USW Local 404
USW Local 5652
USW Local 6115
USW Local 7263
USW Local 7687
USW Local 8183
USW Local 9402
USW Women of Steel
WA 28th Legislative Democrats
Washington Fair Trade Coalition
Washington State Democrats
Washington State Labor Council
Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders
WashTech
West Area Labor Council
West Texas Building & Construction Trades Council
Western Colorado Congress
Western Mass. Jobs with Justice
Western New York Area Labor Federation
Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO Central Labor Council
Whatever It Takes For Progress
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition
Witness for Peace – Upper Midwest
Women Occupy San Diego
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,
Maine Chapter
Young Active Labor Leaders, Texas AFL-CIO