

**Obama's latest power grab:
Unconstitutional "Fast Track" Trade Promotion Authority**

Obama is planning to ask Congress in September to surrender its constitutional authority and grant him "Fast Track" Trade Promotion Authority so he can announce this victory at the ASEAN summit of Southeast Asian nations.

Article I-8 of the Constitution gives Congress exclusive authority to set the terms of trade. Meanwhile, the executive branch has constitutional authority to negotiate with foreign sovereigns on behalf of our nation. **The Founders established this clear check and balance to prevent the president from unilaterally negotiating with foreign nations** and imposing trade policies that Congress would deem to be against the national interest.

However, recent presidents have seized Congress' constitutional authority and also "diplomatically legislated" on numerous other matters under Congress' jurisdiction using a procedure commonly known as **"Fast Track",** or "Trade Promotion Authority."

Under Fast Track, the executive branch is empowered to sign trade agreements before Congress has an opportunity to vote on them, and then unilaterally write legislation making the pacts' terms U.S. federal law.

Fast Track allows the president to send these executive branch-authored bills directly to the floor for a vote under rules forbidding all floor amendments and limiting debate.

Fast Track takes the floor schedule out of the hands of the House majority and gives it to the president by requiring the House to vote on the bill within a preset period of time.

Past delegation of Congress' trade authority was based on the premise that the executive branch would respect Congress' constitutional role and the legislative branch could trust the executive branch to do so. **This administration has breached that trust.**

From the abuse of executive orders, to recess appointments, to the stonewalling of congressional oversight on Fast and Furious, Benghazi, IRS intimidation and other scandals, **this administration has shown contempt for the constitutionally mandated co-equal role of the Congress.**

Given these factors, **do not agree to cede our constitutional authority to the executive through an approval of a request for "Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority."**

Call your representative in the House of Representatives and ask them to contact Walter Jones' office and add their name to the letter opposing Fast Track authority for Obama.