

Don't Let TPP Increase Suffering for Farmed Animals, Exacerbate Climate Change, and Undermine Food Safety!

Dear Representative _____, Senator _____,
and Senator _____ cc: President Barack Obama

I am deeply concerned that the highly secretive Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations are crafting an agreement that will undermine food safety, animal welfare, and environmental protection at the behest of the approximately 600 corporate advisers to TPP negotiations – advisers who have greater access to negotiating texts than Congressional staff.

The Center for Food Safety and the Animal Legal Defense Fund on December 20th petitioned the FDA on December 20th, 2012 to immediately lower allowable levels of ractopamine, which ALDF describes as “the controversial animal feed additive widely used in industrial factory farms that raises significant food safety and animal welfare concerns for the U.S. meat industry.” Ractopamine is banned in over 160 countries, but TPP nations are being pressured by the US to drop their Ractopamine bans in order to grant market access to US exports under TPP. Taiwan has been pressured to drop its Ractopamine ban as a precondition to even being considered to be allowed to enter TPP negotiations.

Cargill is demanding that under TPP “the United States must not exclude any agricultural products.” Under Cargill's vision of TPP, California's ban on the inhumane delicacy foie gras could be challenged by exporters from Canada, the 5th largest foie gras producer.

Representatives DeLauro, Landrieu, and Jones have raised concerns about TPP creating influx of contaminated shrimp and other seafood from Vietnam and Malaysia. Vietnam's shrimp farms are exporting shrimp contaminated with the banned antibiotic enrofloxacin, resulting in 22 import rejections in Japan in the first two months of 2012. Creation of ponds for marine shrimp aquaculture has led to the destruction of thousands of hectares of mangroves and coastal wetlands, critical wildlife habitat. According to ecologist Boone Kauffman of Oregon State University, 401 metric tons of carbon are emitted to the atmosphere when a hectare of mangrove is converted to a shrimp farm. A 100-gram shrimp cocktail represents 198 kilograms of carbon dioxide from the loss of the mangrove, the equivalent of burning 90 liters of gasoline. The carbon intensity of shrimp from deforested mangroves is 10 times greater than that of beef grown in deforested Amazonian rain forest. Shrimp farms also pollute the surrounding waters, overwhelming the environment and harming other species.

I urge you to demand greater transparency in the TPP negotiating process, vote against Fast Track Authority for TPP, and to vote against TPP when it reaches Congress.

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Contact me: w/ more info (circle one) YES NO about volunteering (circle one) YES NO

Mail completed letter to GJAE, 34-21 Crescent St, Astoria, NY 11106

Don't Let TPP Increase Suffering for Farmed Animals, Exacerbate Climate Change, and Undermine Food Safety!

Dear Representative _____, Senator _____,
and Senator _____ cc: President Barack Obama

I am deeply concerned that the highly secretive Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations are crafting an agreement that will undermine food safety, animal welfare, and environmental protection at the behest of the approximately 600 corporate advisers to TPP negotiations – advisers who have greater access to negotiating texts than Congressional staff.

The Center for Food Safety and the Animal Legal Defense Fund on December 20th petitioned the FDA on December 20th, 2012 to immediately lower allowable levels of ractopamine, which ALDF describes as “the controversial animal feed additive widely used in industrial factory farms that raises significant food safety and animal welfare concerns for the U.S. meat industry.” Ractopamine is banned in over 160 countries, but TPP nations are being pressured by the US to drop their Ractopamine bans in order to grant market access to US exports under TPP. Taiwan has been pressured to drop its Ractopamine ban as a precondition to even being considered to be allowed to enter TPP negotiations.

Cargill is demanding that under TPP “the United States must not exclude any agricultural products.” Under Cargill's vision of TPP, California's ban on the inhumane delicacy foie gras could be challenged by exporters from Canada, the 5th largest foie gras producer.

Representatives DeLauro, Landrieu, and Jones have raised concerns about TPP creating influx of contaminated shrimp and other seafood from Vietnam and Malaysia. Vietnam's shrimp farms are exporting shrimp contaminated with the banned antibiotic enrofloxacin, resulting in 22 import rejections in Japan in the first two months of 2012. Creation of ponds for marine shrimp aquaculture has led to the destruction of thousands of hectares of mangroves and coastal wetlands, critical wildlife habitat. According to ecologist Boone Kauffman of Oregon State University, 401 metric tons of carbon are emitted to the atmosphere when a hectare of mangrove is converted to a shrimp farm. A 100-gram shrimp cocktail represents 198 kilograms of carbon dioxide from the loss of the mangrove, the equivalent of burning 90 liters of gasoline. The carbon intensity of shrimp from deforested mangroves is 10 times greater than that of beef grown in deforested Amazonian rain forest. Shrimp farms also pollute the surrounding waters, overwhelming the environment and harming other species.

I urge you to demand greater transparency in the TPP negotiating process, vote against Fast Track Authority for TPP, and to vote against TPP when it reaches Congress.

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Contact me: w/ more info (circle one) YES NO about volunteering (circle one) YES NO

Mail completed letter to GJAE, 34-21 Crescent St, Astoria, NY 11106