

LABOR MOVEMENT UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO 'FAST TRACKING' TRADE DEALS

March 3, 2015

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As the leaders of almost 20 million U.S. workers and their families, we share your commitment to strengthening the middle class. To rebuild our economy for America's hardworking families, we ask you to join us in opposition to "fast track" trade promotion authority (also known as TPA).

Fast track trade deals mean fewer jobs, lower wages, and a declining middle class. Fast track has been used since the Nixon Administration to advance deals, like NAFTA, that are sold to the American people as job creation measures. But these deals, written largely by and for the world's largest corporations, don't create jobs: their main purpose isn't even related to trade, it's to enshrine rules that make it easier for firms to invest offshore and increase corporate influence over the global economy.

Fast track is an undemocratic, unaccountable and completely unacceptable way to develop economic policies that affect us all. America needs a new version of trade negotiating authority that brings the process out from behind closed doors and prioritizes making life better for people, instead of just making life easier for corporations. Working people have heard enough broken promises about the benefits of fast track. It's time to stop believing the fairy tale that passing one more fast track trade deal is going to have different results.

If you stand for higher wages, more jobs, and greater opportunities for America's hardworking families, you must oppose fast track.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Trumka, President, AFL-CIO
Elizabeth H. Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO
Tefere A. Gebre, Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO

J. David Cox President, AFGE	David Durkee President, BCTGM	R. Thomas Buffenbarger President, IAM	James Callahan President, IUOE	Rose Ann DeMoro Executive Director, NNU	William P. Hite General President, UA
Rogelio "Roy" A. Flores National Vice President, AFGE	Jorge Ramirez President, Chicago Federation of Labor	Robert A. Scardelletti President, TCU-IAM	Kenneth Rigmaiden President, IUPAT	Patrick D. Finley President, OPCMIA	Dennis D. Williams President, UAW
Diann Woodard President, AFSA	Lori Pelletier Executive Secretary- Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO	Matthew Loeb President, IATSE	Terry O'Sullivan General President, LIUNA	Michael Goodwin President, OPEIU	Cindy Estrada Vice President, UAW
Lee Saunders President, AFSCME	Clyde Rivers Former President, CSEA	Newton B. Jones President, IBB	John F. Hegarty National President, NPMHU-LIUNA	Nancy Wohlforth Former Secretary- Treasurer, OPEIU	Douglas J. McCarron President, UBC
Laura Reyes Secretary-Treasurer, AFSCME	Larry Cohen President, CWA	Edwin D. Hill President, IBEW	Ron Ault President, MTD	Ken Howard President, SAG-AFTRA	Marc Perrone President, UFCW
Randi Weingarten President, AFT	Sara Nelson President, AFA-CWA	James P. Hoffa President, IBT	Sean McGarvey President, NABTU	Mary Kay Henry President, SEIU	Stuart Appelbaum President, RWDSU
Lorretta Johnson Secretary-Treasurer, AFT	Paul Almeida President, DPE	Gregory J. Junemann President, IFPTE	Fredric V. Rolando President, NALC	Michael Sacco President, SIU	Cecil Roberts President, UMWA
Timothy Canoll President, ALPA	Baldemar Velasquez President, FLOC	Harold Daggett President, ILA	Paul Rinaldi President, NATCA	Joseph J. Nigro General President, SMART	D. Taylor President, UNITE HERE!
Mark Dimondstein President, APWU	Bruce R. Smith President, GMP	Robert McEllrath President, ILWU	Bhairavi Desai Executive Director, NTLA	Ed Wytkind President, TTD	Leo W. Gerard President, USW
Lawrence J. Hanley President, ATU	Harold A. Schaitberger President, IAFF	James Grogan President, Insulators	Lily Eskelsen Garcia President, NEA	Harry Lombardo President, TWU	Fred Redmond Vice President, USW
James Boland President, BAC		Walter Wise President, Ironworkers	DeMaurice Smith Executive Director, NFLPA		D. Michael Langford National President, UWUA