

SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904  
(202) 224-2523  
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING,  
CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

November 10, 2015

XXXX  
7XX  
Freeport, ME

Dear \_\_,

Thank you for contacting me to express your opposition to the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement. I appreciate your taking the time to do so.

The TPP covers the United States and 11 other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Obama Administration announced on October 5, 2015, that negotiations on the agreement had concluded, and on November 5, 2015, the text of the agreement was finally released and may be viewed at <http://www.ustr.gov>. Before it can go into effect in the United States, however, Congress must pass legislation to implement TPP.

In deciding how to vote on any free trade agreement, I carefully assess the effect it would have on those employed in Maine's manufacturing industries, agriculture sector, and small businesses. I also review the agreement's environmental, labor, and human rights protections. While I continue to undertake a close review of all aspects of the agreement, I remain concerned about the many American jobs that TPP could threaten, especially those in Maine's shoemaking industry. New Balance, for example, employs nearly 900 workers at three Maine factories. Every briefing that I have received on TPP has left me with the conclusion that these workers would be disadvantaged by this trade deal. It is troubling that the Administration would agree to provisions that penalize companies like New Balance that have remained committed to American manufacturing, rather than moving all of their production jobs overseas.

Given my serious concerns about TPP's effect on Maine jobs, on June 24, I voted against granting Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), also known as "fast track" authority. TPA allows the President to negotiate certain trade agreements that would then be considered by Congress under expedited procedures without the opportunity to offer amendments. Despite my strong opposition, the bill passed the Senate by a vote of 60-38 and is now law.

Again, thank you for contacting me.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

P.S. If you would like to receive weekly updates about my work on behalf of Maine in the United States Senate, you can subscribe to my e-newsletter by [clicking here](#).

