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October 19, 2015

Dear Friends:

I am sorry that I could not be there with all of you today as Congress is in session and I am in Washington. I stand with you in spirit in opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP.)

The TPP could very well have lasting and detrimental impacts on our environment, our labor market and very likely our democratic form of government. We remain in an economic recovery that is not yet fully realized and we must, therefore, take all possible measures to ensure that hardworking Americans are never left behind as they struggle to find good jobs at fair wages. The TPP would simply not ensure such a reality and could possibly undercut our middle class. Furthermore, as you may know, the environmental standards in the TPP have left much to be desired. The language is not nearly strong enough to ensure that our trading partners would not chase profits at the expense of the world's precious forests, water sources and arable land. I also share the concerns expressed by many of those opposed to the TPP that the dispute settlement section of the agreement is completely inadequate. A dispute settlement system based on less than transparent arbitration panels that are stacked in favor of corporate interests – panels that are able to undermine or entirely overturn democratically passed laws, are not acceptable mechanisms for solving trade disputes. It is for these reasons that I remain opposed to the recently concluded TPP agreement and the TTIP – agreements conducted in secret with little to no input from those it will affect most.

Once again, I stand with all of you and applaud your dedication to ensuring that corporate interests are not allowed to run roughshod over the interests of everyday hardworking Americans. With warm personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings".

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress