

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is “a punch in the face to the middle class of America.”

*Although it is called a “free trade agreement,”
the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is NOT just about trade.*

Of the Trans-Pacific Partnership’s 29 draft chapters, only five deal with traditional trade issues. Most would set rules on non-trade matters that affect our daily lives: food safety, Internet freedom, medicine costs, job off-shoring, financial regulation, environmental standards and more. Our domestic policies would be required to comply with the TPP rules, thereby undermining our sovereignty and our democratic institutions.

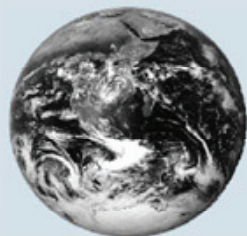
But the terms of the TPP free trade agreement are shrouded in secrecy with the public and the press being shut out of the negotiations. Meanwhile, hundreds of big corporations have a seat at the talks. Members of Congress are allowed to view the text but they are forbidden to leave with notes and are sworn to secrecy. Florida Congressman Alan Grayson’s reaction to what he read is chilling: “Having seen what I’ve seen, I would characterize this as . . . a punch in the face to the middle class of America. I think that’s fair to say from what I’ve seen so far. But I’m not allowed to tell you why!”

In an increasingly global economy, no one disagrees that we should expand trade with other countries so we can create new jobs for workers in Maine. But trade agreements need to be fair, protect our environment, our health, and our freedoms while ensuring American workers can earn a living wage with benefits.

Now, President Obama and recently-confirmed U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman are urging Congress to approve Fast Track or so-called “Trade Promotion Authority” to enable them to quickly ram through the TPP and other free trade agreements. The last thing we need is for politicians to fast-track another unfair free trade deal through Congress. Fast Track helps them to include secret provisions that further enrich their campaign contributors while hurting workers here in Maine and throughout the United States.

It’s time to stop letting multi-national corporations make millions more while they ship our jobs overseas. Maine has already seen enough lost jobs, shuttered mills and manufacturing plants, and hollowed-out communities as the result of NAFTA and other free trade agreements. We simply can’t afford another trade deal that’s unfair to American workers. When the United States negotiates a trade agreement, every provision should benefit our workers, not the big multi-national corporations.

At the Maine Fair Trade Campaign, we call on Senators Susan Collins and Angus King to vote against Fast Track and urge USTR Michael Froman to make the TPP negotiating process transparent, accountable to all, and to reject any plans that limit our government’s power to regulate in the public interest.



**Maine
Fair Trade
Campaign**

*Working together for fair trade
and a just, sustainable and democratic
global economy*