Re: Please Oppose “The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act” (HR 3830/S 1900)

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations urge you to oppose “The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act” (HR 3830/S 1900). This legislation would revive the outdated and unsound 2002 “Fast Track” Trade Promotion Authority mechanism.

Indeed, the legislation replicates the broad delegation of Congress’ constitutional authorities that was provided in the 2002 Fast Track, undermining Congress’ ability to have a meaningful role in shaping the contents of trade agreements.

The legislation includes several negotiation objectives not found in the 2002 Fast Track. However, the Fast Track process that this legislation would reestablish ensures that these objectives are entirely unenforceable. If this bill were enacted, the president could sign a trade agreement before Congress votes on it — whether or not the negotiating objectives have been met. It would also allow the executive branch to write legislation not subject to committee markup that would implement the pact and alter existing U.S. laws so that they come into compliance with the rules of the trade agreement. Additionally, if HR 3830 were enacted, trade pact implementing legislation would be guaranteed House and Senate votes within 90 days, with all floor amendments forbidden and a maximum of 20 hours of debate.

Fast Track was designed in the 1970s when trade negotiations were focused on cutting tariffs and quotas. Today’s pending “trade” agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), are much broader — setting binding policy on Congress and state legislatures relating to patents and copyright, food safety, government procurement, financial regulation, immigration, healthcare, energy, the environment, labor rights and more. Such a broad delegation of Congress’ constitutional authorities is simply inappropriate given the scope of the pending “trade” agreements and the implications for Congress’ core domestic policymaking prerogatives.

After decades of devastating job loss, attacks on environmental and health laws and floods of unsafe imported food under our past trade agreements, America must chart a new course on trade policy. To accomplish this, a new form of trade authority is needed that ensures that Congress and the public play a much more meaningful role in determining the contents of U.S. trade agreements. Critically, such a new procedure must ensure that Congress is satisfied with a trade agreement’s contents before a pact can be signed and subjected to any expedited procedures.
HR 3830/S 1900 is an abrogation of not only Congress’ constitutional authority, but of its responsibility to the American people. We oppose this bill, and urge you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Citizens Trade Campaign
350.org
ActionAid USA
AFL-CIO
Alliance for Democracy
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
American Medical Student Organization
American Nurses Association
Americans for Democratic Action
Americans Organized for Change
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)
Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Union (AWPPW)
Backbone Campaign
Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) International Union
BAYAN USA
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
BlueGreen Alliance
Breast Cancer Action
Campaign for Americas Future
Caring Activists Against Fur
Center for Effective Government
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Center for Policy Analysis on Trade and Health (CPATH)
Center for Rights
Children’s Environmental Protection Alliance (Children’s EPA)
CIP Americas Program
Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras
CODEPINK
Colombia Support Network
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism
Communications Workers of America
Community Food and Justice Coalition
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Corporate Accountability International
CREDO
Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
Domestic Fair Trade Association
Energy Action Coalition
Environmental Investigation Agency
Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
Fair World Project
Family Farm Defenders
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Farms Not Arms
Fight for the Future
Food & Water Watch
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Food Empowerment Project
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)
Free Speech for People
Friends of the Earth
GABRIELA USA
Global Exchange
Global Justice Ecology Project
GMO Free USA
Grassroots International
Gray Panthers
Greenpeace
Guatemala Human Rights Commission
Health Alliance International
Health Care Without Harm
Holy Cross International Justice Office
Holy Cross International Justice Office
Human Rights Observation/Honduras
Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge (I-MAK)
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights
Institute for Local Self Reliance
Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project
International Action Center
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker (IBEW)
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
International Forum on Globalization
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
IUE-CWA, Industrial Division of the Communication Workers of America
James Leonard Wolcott Corp Trust USA
Just Foreign Policy
Just Transition Alliance
Kids for Saving Earth
Labor Notes
League of Conservation Voters
Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mata Traders
Medical Mission Sisters Alliance for Justice
Moana Nui Action Alliance
Moms Across America
Move To Amend
MoveOn
Multi-Duti Mfg., Inc
National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC)
National Consumers League
National Family Farm Coalition
National Farmers Union
National Lawyers Guild International Committee
National Nurses United
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility United Church of Christ
New Rules for Global Finance
New York Climate Action Group
Nicaragua -U.S. Friendship Office of the Americas
Nicaragua Center for Community Action
Nicaragua Network
Nonviolence International
Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Justice, Peace/Integrity of Creation Office
Organic Consumers Association
Pax Christi USA
People-to People International Net, 9-jo no kai
Pesticide Action Network North America
Physicians for Social Responsibility
PopularResistance.org
Power In Community Alliances
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Progressive Congress
Progressive Democrats of America
Public Citizen
Quaker Earthcare Witness
Rainforest Action Network (RAN)
Rainforest Information Centre
Rainforest Relief
Real Food Generation
RootsAction.org
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural
Salvadoran American National Network (SANN)
School of the Americas Watch (SOA Watch)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sierra Club
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Leadership Team
Sisters of the Holy Cross - Congregation Justice Committee
Slow Food USA
Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace Solidarity
Student Global AIDS Campaign
The Mothers Project
TransAfrica Forum
U.S. - El Salvador Sister Cities
Unitarian Universalist Global AIDS Coalition
UNITE HERE
United Autoworkers (UAW)
United Brotherhood of Carpenters
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE)
United Front Against Austerity
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United States Pirate Party
United Steelworkers (USW)
United Students Against Sweatshops
United Students for Fair Trade
UniteWomen.org-ACTION
WarIsACrime.org
Waterkeeper Alliance
WhyHunger
Witness for Peace
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Women’s Voices for the Earth
Working Families

Local, State and Regional Organizations
350 Corvallis (OR)
350 Seattle (WA)
350CT
350NYC
350PDX (OR)
4th CD/St. Paul Green Party (MN)
A Chance to Grow (MN)
A Philip Randolph Ft Worth Texas Chapter
Act On Climate (OR)
Activate CT
AFSCME 2748 Chapter 10 (WI)
AFSCME Council 5 (MN)
AFSCME Council 75 (OR)
AFSCME Local 3214 (OR)
AFSCME Local 34 (MN)
AFSCME Local 3800 (MN)
AFSCME Local 4001 (MN)
AFSCME Wisconsin Chapter 7 Retirees
Alameda County Public Health Commission (CA)
Alliance for Democracy - Oregon
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 (MN)
American Federation OF Government Employees Local 3354 (MO)
American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3937 (OR)
American Postal Workers Union, Minneapolis Area Local (MN)
American Postal Workers Union, St. Paul Area Local (MN)
Americans for Democratic Action of Northeast Ohio
Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties Farmers’ Union (OH)
Atlantic Chapter Sierra Club’s TPP Task Force (NY)
Austin Central Labor Council (TX)
Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera (TX)
Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) Local 167G (MN)
Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) Local 267G (MN)
Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) Local 369G (MN)
Bath/Brunswick Occupy (ME)
Blue Green Alliance (MN)
Bronx Greens (NY)
Bronx River Bicycle Works (NY)
Brooklyn For Peace (NY)
CAJA3 Community Action for Justice in the Americas, Africa, Asia (MT)
California Dairy Campaign
California Farmers Union
Carpenters Local 322 (MN)
Carpenters Local 361 (MN)
Cascade AIDS Project (OR)
Catskill Mountainkeeper (NY)
Cement Masons and Plasters Local 633 (MN)
Center for Popular Economics (MA)
Central Co-op (WA)
Central Contra Costa County MoveOn Council (CA)
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) (MN)
Chesapeake Climate Action Network (MD)
Chicago Fair Trade (IL)
Chicago Political Economy Group (IL)
Chicago-Cinquera Sister Cities (IL)
Citizens for Peace and Justice (OR)
Citizens’ Environmental Coalition (NY)
Clarke Constituents of Trade Justice New York Metro
Clean and Healthy New York
Cleveland Jobs with Justice (OH)
Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline (NY)
Coastal Bend Labor Council, AFL-CIO (TX)
Columbia-Pacific Alliance for Social Justice (OR)
Communications Workers of America District 6 (TX)
Communications Workers of America District 7 (MN)
Communications Workers of America Local 1103 (NY)
Communications Workers of America Local 1111 (NY)
Communications Workers of America Local 6132 (TX)
Communications Workers of America Local 6215 (TX)
Communications Workers of America Local 6222 (TX)
Communications Workers of America Local 7777 (CO)
Communications Workers of America Local 7901 (OR)
Communications Workers of America Minnesota State Council
Community Alliance for Global Justice (WA)
Community Alliance of Lane County (OR)
Concerned Families of Westchester (NY)
Connecticut Sierra Club
Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers (AFT) (TX)
Coulee Partners for Sustainability (WI)
Coulee Region Community Coalition (WI)
Dakota Rural Action
Dallas AFL-CIO (TX)
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (PA & NY)
Deep Green Resistance NYC
Democracy In Action Chicago (IL)
Denver Area Labor Federation (CO)
Denver Justice & Peace Committee (CO)
Divas Fair Trade (MN)
DownRiver Alliance (WI)
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition (NY)
Durango Unido en Chicago (IL)
East Central Area Labor Council (MN)
Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM (NY)
Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC (CA)
Elevator Constructors Local 9 (MN)
Empire State Consumer Project (NY)
Environmental Health Strategy Center (ME)
Environmental Task Force, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church (MD)
Eureka Recycling (MN)
FACE Hawaii
Fairmont, Minnesota Peace Group
Farmworker Association of Florida
Florida Against the Trans Pacific Partnership
Food for Maine’s Future
Fort Worth TX MoveOn Council
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice (IL)
Frack Free Illinois
Galveston County Central Labor Council (TX)
GMO Free Colorado
GMO Free Maryland
GMO Free Orange County (CA)
Greater Glens Falls Central Labor Council AFL-CIO (NY)
Green CTY Democrats (WI)
Green Party of Whatcom County (WA)
Haiti Action Committee (CA)
Hampshire/Franklin Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO (MA)
Harlem Tenants Council (NY)
Harris County AFL-CIO Council (TX)
HartBeat Ensemble (CT)
HoCo Climate Change (MD)
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (MN)
Houston Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Council (TX)
Huron Valley Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO (MI)
IBT - Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (TX)
Illinois Fair Trade Coalition
Illinois Green Party
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (OH)
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (MI)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Airline Local 1833 (MN)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Capitol City and Minneapolis Metal Workers Lodge 459 (MN)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) District 165 (MN)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local 126 (IL)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local Lodge 1037 (MN)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local Lodge 112 (MN)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local Lodge 1956 (MN)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local Lodge 623 (MN)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local Lodge 737 (MN)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Minnesota State Council
International Association of the Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 22 (TX)
International Association of the Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 66 (TX)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 3rd District (PA)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1253 (ME)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 160 (MN)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 20 (TX)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 242 (MN)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 31 (MN)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 520 (TX)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 66 (TX)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 716 (TX)
International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) Local 21 (TX)
International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) Local 81 (TX)
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) District Council 88 (TX)
Ironworkers Local 263 (TX)
IUE-CWA Local 1140 (MN)
Jeannette Rankin Peace Center (MT)
JOBS NOW Coalition (MN)
Justice Party of California
Justice Party of Connecticut
Justice Party of New Mexico
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Keystone Progress (PA)
La Conexión de las Americas (MN)
Labelgmos.org (CA)
Labor Outreach Committee of Occupy Wall Street (NY)
Laborers District Council of Minnesota & North Dakota
Land Stewardship Project (MN)
Law Office of Robert G. O’Leary (MA)
League of Rural Voters (MN)
Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas
Lehigh Valley Gas Truth (PA)
Long Island MoveOn.org (NY)
Long Island Progressive Coalition (NY)
Main Street Alliance of Oregon
Maine AFL-CIO
Maine Fair Trade Campaign
Maine People’s Alliance
Malama Kauai (HI)
MAPE (MN)
Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas (CA)
Maryland United for Peace and Justice, Inc.
May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights (NY)
Midwest Pesticide Action Center (IL)
Millwrights Local 548 (MN)
Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition (WI)
Mingas-NY
Minisink Matters (NY)
Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation (MN)
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Building and Construction Trades
Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Industrial Union Council
Minnesota Nurses Association
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
Minnesota Teamsters Joint Council 32
Missoula Women for Peace (MT)
Missouri Rural Crisis Center
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE)
MnPA (MN)
MoveOn Los Angeles Council (CA)
MoveOn.org New York Councils
MoveOn.org/Portland (OR)
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 59 (WI)
New Hampshire Right To Know GMO
New York Buyer’s Club
New York State AFL-CIO
Nicaragua Solidarity Committee Chicago / Alliance for Global Justice (IL)
North Carolina State AFL-CIO
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
North East Area Labor Council (MN)
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group - NESAWG (NY)
Northern Plains Resource Council (MT)
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (MA)
Northwest Farm Bill Action Group (WA)
NSC Chicago (IL)
NY Faith & Justice
NY4Whales
NYC Councils of MoveOn.org
NYC Friends of Clearwater
Occupy Bellingham (WA)
Occupy Coachella Valley (CA)
Ocean Spirit Massage & Co. (MT)
Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 12 (MN)
Ohio AFL-CIO
Ohio Fair Trade Campaign
Ohio Farmers Union
Oregon Action
Oregon AFL-CIO
Oregon AFSCME
Oregon Alliance for Progress
Oregon Fair Trade Campaign
Oregon Machinist Council
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Oregon Progressive Party
Oregon Steelworkers LE
Organization of Staff Analysts (NY)
Organize Ohio
Orlando Light Brigade (FL)
Oxfam UT (TX)
PA 12th C.D. Chapter, Progressive Democrats of America
PA Fair Trade Coalition
Peace Action Bay Ridge Interfaith (NY)
Peace Christian Fellowship (CA)
Peace House (OR)
PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick Maine
Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
People For Positive Action (NY)
Pierce County Central Labor Council (WA)
Pioneer Valley Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO (MA)
Pipe Fitters Local Union 211 (TX)
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 142 (TX)
Plumbers Local 68 (TX)
Portland Area Global AIDS Coalition (OR)
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (OR)
Portland Climate Jobs Committee (OR)
Portland Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (OR)
Portland Jobs with Justice (OR)
Portlandrisingtide.org (OR)
Powder River Basin Resource Council (WY)
Presbytery of the Twin Cities (MN)
Presentation Sisters, Aberdeen, SD
Professional and Technical Employees Local 17 (WA)
Progressive Democrats of America - Tucson Chapter (AZ)
Protect Biodiversity in Public Forests (OH)
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (WA)
Regla de Oro (MN)
Residents for a Quality City (CA)
Retirees for Single Payer Health Care (MI)
RLM Arts (MN)
Rochester Committee on Latin America (NY)
Texas State Employee’s Union CWA Local 6186  
The Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (IL)  
The Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement  
The Enviro Show (MA)  
The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (NY)  
TradeJustice New York Metro  
Union House Apparel (MN)  
UNITE HERE Local 5 (HI)  
UNITE HERE Minnesota  
United Association (UA) Local 529 (TX)  
United Auto Workers Local 958 (MN)  
United Auto Workers Minnesota State CAP Council  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1189 (MN)  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1459 (MA)  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 21 (WA)  
United for Action (NY)  
United Steelworkers (USW) District 11 (MN)  
United Steelworkers (USW) District 13 Council (TX)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 10-1 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 11-75 (MN)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1165 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1188 (ME)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 12698 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1688 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1940 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 2002 (MN)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 2599-06 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 264 (MN)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 2660 (MN)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 365 (ME)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 4-1247 (ME)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 4-261 (ME)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 404 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 6115 (MN)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 7263 (MN)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 8041 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 8183 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 900 (ME)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 9445 (PA)  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local Union 256L (PA)  
United Transportation Union, Minnesota Legislative Council  
United Union of Roofers and Waterproofers Local 123 (OH)  
University of Minnesota Labor Education Service  
Urban/Suburban Ecoliteracy (CA)  
Veterans for Peace - Austin Chapter (TX)  
Veterans for Peace - NYC Chapter 034  
Vocal - NY  
Washington Fair Trade Coalition  
Washington Heights Counter-Recruitment Group (NY)  
Washington State Democrats
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders
WashTech (WA)
Washtenaw Community Action Team (MI)
We The People Matter (NY)
WESPAC Foundation (NY)
West Area Labor Council (MN)
West Texas Building & Construction Trades Council
Western Colorado Congress
Western Maine Labor Council
Western Mass Jobs with Justice
Western Organization of Resource Councils (MT)
Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO Central Labor Council
Whatcom Democrats (WA)
Whatever It Takes for Progress (MI)
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition
Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters
Witness for Peace New England
Witness for Peace Northwest
Witness for Peace Southeast
Witness for Peace Upper Midwest
Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom, Portland Branch (OR)
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Maine
Worldview (NH)