Dear Chairman Wyden:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to share our objectives regarding 21st century trade agreements and the enhanced congressional oversight needed to ensure that U.S. trade pacts deliver benefits for most Americans, promote broadly shared prosperity, and safeguard the environment and public health. Our organizations oppose the Fast Track model of trade authority and believe that it must be replaced with a new system for negotiating and implementing trade agreements that provides for more congressional and public accountability.

Today’s proposed trade agreements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), extend far beyond traditional trade issues such as tariffs. The TPP is a massive 29-chapter agreement that would establish binding rules on issues related to labor rights, energy and the environment, medicine pricing, patents and copyright, food and product safety, Internet freedom and innovation, government procurement, financial regulation, immigration, healthcare, and more. Similarly, TTIP is an expansive agreement that will focus mainly on eliminating so-called “non-tariff” or “technical” barriers to trade—namely behind-the-border domestic regulatory policies. Indeed, the TTIP is focused more on how national or regional policies are made and the uniformity of regulatory standards than on international trade in its traditional sense.

The old Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority is simply not appropriate given the subject matter covered by today’s pacts, such as TPP and TTIP. For this reason, we oppose “The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act” (S. 1900), which replicates the overly broad delegation of Congress’s constitutional authorities that was provided in the 2002 Fast Track and allows the executive branch to unilaterally select negotiating partner countries, negotiate terms, decide when negotiations are complete and then sign a final pact before the full Congress has had an opportunity to approve the contents. Pursuant to S. 1900, signed pacts could then be rushed through Congress—regardless of whether congressional negotiating objectives have been met—with a guaranteed vote in 90 days under rules that circumvent ordinary review, amendment and debate procedures.

In order to deal with today’s complex trade agreements and accelerating globalization, a 21st century trade authority that includes enhanced mechanisms for Congress to exercise its constitutional authority over U.S. trade policy is needed. While it is important that Congress develop negotiating mandates that outline what all U.S. trade agreements must and must not include, as explained below, even more important is the replacement of the outdated and failed Fast Track procedures. Any agreement that will be considered for expedited approval (i.e. limited debate and no amendments) must include robust and binding provisions that truly mark it as a “21st Century Trade Agreement.” However, including strong mandates without a system to guarantee the mandates have been achieved is like having a speeding limit in a school zone without any enforcement personnel. To that end, in this new model of trade authority, expedited consideration of completed agreements should only be available if and when Congress
determines that its negotiating objectives have been satisfied and the executive branch has abided by requirements for increased congressional and public oversight over the entire process.

To achieve improved accountability and outcomes, this enhanced process should include:

1. **Congressional role in selecting appropriate trade partners:** Congress should set criteria, including with respect to human and labor rights compliance, environmental and public health standards, and market access opportunities for U.S. exporters, to determine whether a country is an appropriate trading partner for the United States. Congress must also have the opportunity to determine that a country proposed by the executive branch does not meet such criteria before negotiations commence and is unlikely to be an appropriate partner in the near term, in which case the trade agreement would not qualify for expedited procedures.

2. **Mandatory negotiating objectives to ensure trade agreements deliver broad benefits:** Congress should set mandatory negotiating objectives outlining what all U.S. trade agreements must and must not include. Congress must have the opportunity to add agreement-specific objectives.

3. **Enhanced transparency to ensure meaningful congressional and public input:** The Office of the United States Trade Representative must conduct broad, specific, and systematic congressional and public briefings on the progress that negotiators are making towards meeting the established negotiating objectives. In addition, negotiating texts should be made available to the public so that all stakeholders have the information to provide informed input to elected and appointed officials on the implications of the trade deal.

4. **Congressional certification that trade goals have been met before trade negotiations are concluded:** When executive branch negotiators believe that they have concluded negotiations, a final text must be released publicly and Congress must certify that the negotiating objectives have been satisfied before the text of a pact can be deemed final. Only such certification could trigger an expedited vote by Congress to approve the agreement.

5. **Congressional approval of trade agreements and authorization for the executive branch to sign and enter into agreements:** Congress would vote on trade agreements using expedited procedures only if the requirements enumerated above were met. Requiring explicit congressional approval to sign and enter into the agreement enables Congress to ensure that an agreement’s contents are acceptable at a time when changes could still be made, if necessary.

6. **A mechanism for a sizeable minority of the House or Senate to obtain a vote on a resolution to remove an agreement from expedited consideration:** As an additional safeguard, a sizeable minority in either chamber should be able to get a privileged floor vote in either chamber on a resolution to withdraw expedited consideration for any pact for a variety of reasons, such as lack of Congressional or public consultation/input or clear breach of negotiating objectives.

7. **Trade negotiating authority must be considered in conjunction with related trade and economic policy legislation.** For example, trade rules that cannot be enforced provide no real benefits for the American people, our environment, or our economy. Moreover, increased trade
without concurrent investments in our infrastructure and workforce will surely result in lost opportunities. Addressing long-standing economic problems such as wage suppression and economic inequality will take more than new trade pacts.

Over the course of our nation’s history, Congress has regularly created new trade authority mechanisms as the subject matter of agreements changed. We urge you to seize the historic opportunity to replace the outdated Fast Track procedures that our organizations so strongly oppose and create a new trade negotiating and approval process that would help deliver trade agreements that could benefit workers, communities, and the environment and, therefore, rebuild broad support for trade agreements.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

350.org
ActionAid USA
Alliance for Democracy
Alliance for Retired Americans
Amazon Watch
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)
American Medical Student Association - Just Medicine Campaign
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA (AFA-CWA)
Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA)
Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers
Backbone Campaign
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
BlueGreen Alliance
Breast Cancer Action
Campaign for America’s Future
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Effective Government
Center for Food Safety
Center for International Environmental Law
Citizens Trade Campaign
Colombia Support Network
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Common Cause
Communications Workers of America
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Consumer Federation of America

Corporate Accountability International
Cultural Survival
Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
Domestic Fair Trade Association
Earthjustice
Economic Policy Institute
Environmental Investigation Agency
Ethix Ventures Inc.
Fair World Project
Family Farm Defenders
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Fight for the Future
Food & Water Watch
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Food Empowerment Project
Free Speech for People
Friends of the Earth, US
Global Exchange
GMO Free USA
Gray Panthers
Green America
Greenpeace
Health Alliance International
Health Care without Harm
Health GAP (Global Access Project)
Holy Cross International Justice Office
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
International Labor Rights Forum
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
IUE-CWA, Industrial Division of the Communications Workers of America
Jobs With Justice
Just Foreign Policy
Justice Party
Labor Network for Sustainability
League of Conservation Voters
Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network
Medical Mission Sisters Alliance for Justice
Moana Nui
Move To Amend
MoveOn.Org
NAACP
National Black Rank and File Exchange
National Family Farm Coalition
National Hmong American Farmers, Inc
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
New Rules for Global Finance
Nicaragua Center for Community Action
Oil Change International
OpenMedia International
People for the American Way
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Popular Resistance
Presbyterian Church USA
Progressive Democrats of America
Public Citizen
Quaker Earthcare Witness
RootsAction.org
School of the Americas Watch
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sierra Club
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team
Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA)
Sr. of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
SumOfUs.org
Task Force on the Americas
The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
The Rachel Carson Council, Inc.
Unitarian Universalist Global AIDS Coalition
UNITE HERE
United Brotherhood of Carpenters
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)
United Mineworkers of America
United Steelworkers
United Students Against Sweatshops
United Students for Fair Trade
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines
WarIsACrime.org
Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC)
Women's Voices for the Earth
Worldview

Local, State, and Regional Organizations:

12th Congressional District Chapter of Progressive Democrats of America
350 Central Maine
350 Maine
350 Seattle
7th District West of Illinois Move-On Chapter
a2mc (Access to Medicines Coalition)
ACC / AFT Local 6249
ACLC AFL-CIO
Activate CT
Aerospace Machinists Dist Lodge 751

AFSCME 2748 Chapter 10
AFSCME Council 5
AFSCME Council 65
AFSCME Local 1542
AFSCME Local 1624
AFSCME Local 3214
AFSCME Local 3214
AFSCME Local 34
AFSCME Local 3800
AFSCME Local 4001
AFSCME Local 668
AFT - Oregon
Alliance for Democracy - Oregon
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005
American Association of Retirees, a California nonprofit corporation
American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3937
American Indian Mothers Inc.
American Postal Workers Union, Minneapolis Area Local
American Postal Workers Union, St. Paul Area Local
Americans for Democratic Action Hawaii
Americans for Democratic Action Iowa
Americans for Democratic Action of Southeastern Penna. Chapter
Americans for Democratic Action Southern California
Americans for Democratic Action, Northeast Ohio
ATU Local 1091
Austin Central Labor Council
Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera
Awake Miami
BCTGM Local 167G
BCTGM Local 267G
BCTGM Local 369G
Berks Gas Truth
BLET-MNSL
BlueGreen Alliance, Minnesota
Bronx River Bicycle Works
Brooklyn For Peace
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Washington State Legislative Board
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Massachusetts State Legislative Board
California Farmers Union
Carpenters Local Union 1209
Carpenters Local Union 223
Carpenters Local Union 318
Carpenters Local Union 318
Carpenters Local Union 322
Carpenters Local Union 345
Carpenters Local Union 361
Carpenters Local Union 50
Carpenters Local Union 74
Cascade AIDS Project
Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
Cement Masons and Plasters Local 633
Center for Family Farm Development, Inc.
Central Co-op
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL)
CFTC - CT Fair Trade Coalition
Chester County Council AFL-CIO
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America
Chicago Fair Trade
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Climate Action Business Association
Cloutman & Cloutman, LLP
Coastal Bend Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Colorado State Legislative Board BLE & T
Columbia Pacific Alliance for Social Justice
Communications Workers of America District 7
Communications Workers of America State Council
Community Action for Justice in the Americas, Africa and Asia (CAJA-3)
Community Alliance for Global Justice
Community Alliance of Lane County
Community to Community Development
Concerned Families of Westchester
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Connecticut Justice Party
Connecticut State Council of Machinists
Construction & General Laborers Local 154
Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers
CWA District 2-13
CWA District 6
CWA Local 1111
CWA Local 6132
CWA Local 6215
CWA Local 6222
CWA Local 7777
CWA Local 7901
Dakota Resource Council (ND)
Dakota Rural Action (SD)
Dallas AFL-CIO
Dallas Building Trades Council, AFL-CIO
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Democracy in Action Chicago
Denver Justice & Peace Committee
Divas Fair Trade
DownRiver Alliance
DSA Austin
East Central Area Labor Council
Eastern Michigan Federation of Teachers
Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM
Economic Justice Action Group of First Unitarian Church
Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC
El Paso Building & Construction Trades Council
Elevator Constructors Local 21
Elevator Constructors Local 9
Empire State Consumer Project
Esperanza Peace & Justice Center
Fairmont, MN Peace Group
Faith Action Network
Farms Not Arms
Farmworker Association of Florida
Fernandez Ranch
Florida AFL-CIO
Florida Alliance for Retired Americans
Food for Maine's Future
Fort Worth MoveOn Council
Fort Worth Professional Firefighters
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
Frack Free Illinois
GCC / IBT Local 4535M
General Teamsters Local 326
GMO Free Florida
Grand Rapids CAT Team
Grassroots Coalition
Greater Danbury MoveOn.Org Council
Green Ministry Team First Presbyterian Church Bend, OR.
Harris County AFL-CIO Council
HartBeat Ensemble
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Houston Federation of Teachers
Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council
IAMAW Airline Local 1833
IAMAW Capitol City and Minneapolis Metal Workers Lodge 459
IAMAW District 165
IAMAW Local Lodge 1037
IAMAW Local Lodge 112
IAMAW Local Lodge 126
IAMAW Local Lodge 1956
IAMAW Local Lodge 2198
IAMAW Local Lodge 623
IAMAW Local Lodge 737
IAMAW Local Lodge 1005
IAMAW Minnesota State Council
IBEW 3rd District
IBEW Local 1253
IBEW Local 160
IBEW Local 242
IBEW Local 278
IBEW Local 294
IBEW Local 31
IBEW Local 46
IBEW Local 520
IBEW Local 66
IBEW Local 716
IBT - Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen - Texas State Legislative Board
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming
Insulators LU 22
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 1175
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 286
Iron Workers Local Union # 482
Ironworkers Local 263
Iroquois Valley Farms, LLC
IUE-CWA Local 1140
JOBS NOW Coalition
Jobs with Justice of South Sound
Joint Council of Teamsters No.37
Jubilee Oregon
Kitsap Central Labor Council
KKI
Label GMOs.org
Laborers District Council of MN & ND
Land Stewardship Project
LCLAA Gulf Coast Chapter
League of Rural Voters
Lehigh Valley Gas Truth
Lehigh Valley Group, Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club
Lubbock Central Labor Council
Maine Fair Trade Campaign
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance
MaineXChange
MAPE
Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas
Marion Polk Move to Amend
Maryland United for Peace and Justice
Mata Traders
Mid-South Carpenters Regional Council
Millwrights Local 548
Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Building and Construction Trades
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Industrial Union Council
Minnesota Nurses Association
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
Minnesota State Council of Machinists IAM&AW
Minnesota Teamsters Joint Council 32
Missouri ProVote
Missouri Rural Crisis Center
Montanans Against the TPP
MoveOn Desert Council
MoveOn Los Angeles Council
MoveOn Metro Denver Council
MoveOn.org/PDX
Nat’l Assn of Letter Carriers, Branch 9
National Nurses Organizing Committee / National Nurses United - Southern Region
NC State AFL-CIO
NEOGAP (Network for Oil and Gas Accountability and Protection)
NH Right To Know GMO
North American Intertribal Missions
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
North East Area Labor Council
North Texas Jobs with Justice
NorthEastern Illinois Chapter, Americans for Democratic Action
Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice
Northern Plains Resource Council (MT)
NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO
NY4WHALES
NYC Friends of Clearwater
Occupy Bellingham
Occupy Coachella Valley
Occupy Fort Stockton
Occupy Naperville
Ocean Spirit Massage
Ohio Fair Trade Campaign
Olympic Climate Action
OPEIU Local 12
Oregon AFL-CIO
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Fair Trade Campaign
Oregon Machinist Council
Oregon Progressive Party
Oregon Rural Action
Oregon Steelworkers
Organization of Staff Analysts
PA Conference of Teamsters
PA Fair Trade Coalition
PDA Desert Chapter
Peace Action Bay Ridge Interfaith
Peace Action, Maine Chapter
Peace House
PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick, Maine
People For Positive Action of Plattsburgh, NY
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pierce County Central Labor Council
Pipefitters Local Union 211
Pittsburgh LCLAA
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 142
Plumbers Local 68
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee
Portland Healthcare Action Group
Portland Jobs with Justice
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Presbytery of the Twin Cities
Progressive Democrats of America - Illinois
Progressive Democrats of America-Tucson Chapter
Protect Biodiversity in Public Forests
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
Regla de Oro
RLM Arts
San Antonio AFL-CIO
San Antonio Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
San Diego Maquiladora Workers Solidarity Network (SDMWSN)
Sane Energy Project
Seattle CISPES
Seattle Education Association
SEIU / NCFO Chapter 1016 Local 32BJ
SEIU 503, OPEU
SEIU Local 63
SEIU MN State Council
Sheet Metal Workers Local 10
Sheet Metal Workers’ Local Union #54
Sierra Club - Connecticut Chapter
Sierra Club - Oregon Chapter
Sierra Club Lehigh Valley (PA)
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio, TX
SMART Local 565
South Florida LCLAA
South Florida Voices for Working Families
South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign
South Suburban Council MoveOn.org
Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council
Southeast MN Alliance of Peacemakers
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Southwest Ohio Green PAC
St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America
St. Paul Inter-Faith Council
Steelworkers Local 9528 CTAPE
Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts
Take Back America for the People
Tarrant County CLC, AFL-CIO  
Teamsters Joint Council 10  
Teamsters Joint Council 13  
Teamsters Joint Council 16  
Teamsters Joint Council 25  
Teamsters Joint Council 28  
Teamsters Joint Council 3  
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Teamsters Local 100  
Teamsters Local 102  
Teamsters Local 102  
Teamsters Local 117  
Teamsters Local 118  
Teamsters Local 1199  
Teamsters Local 150  
Teamsters Local 170  
Teamsters Local 179  
Teamsters Local 190  
Teamsters Local 2011  
Teamsters Local 245  
Teamsters Local 26  
Teamsters Local 29  
Teamsters Local 294  
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Teamsters Local 414  
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Teamsters Local 769  
Teamsters Local 777  
Teamsters Local 79  
Teamsters Local 830  
Teamsters Local 838  
Teamsters Local 890  
Teamsters Local 988  
Teamsters Local 988  
Teamsters Local 997  
Teamsters Local 997  
Texas AFL CIO  
Texas Alliance for Retired Americans  
Texas American Federation of Teachers  
Texas Fair Trade Coalition  
Texas NAACP  
Texas State Association of Electrical Workers  
Texas State Building Trades Council  
Texas State Council of Machinists  
Texas Young Active Labor Leaders  
The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester  
Traditions Fair Trade  
Truck Drivers Local 449  
UE Western Region  
UFCW 555  
UFCW Local 21  
Union House  
UNITE HERE Minnesota  
United Association Local 529  
United Auto Workers Local 2125  
United Auto Workers Local 879  
United Auto Workers Local 958  
United Auto Workers Minnesota State CAP Council  
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1189  
United Transportation Union, MN Legislative Council  
University of MN Labor Education Service  
USW District 10  
USW District 11  
USW District 13  
USW Local 1016  
USW Local 11-75  
USW Local 1188  
USW Local 1219
USW Local 12698
USW Local 13-227
USW Local 1329
USW Local 13-620
USW Local 1408
USW Local 1408
USW Local 2002
USW Local 264
USW Local 2660
USW Local 364
USW Local 3657
USW Local 404
USW Local 5652
USW Local 6115
USW Local 7263
USW Local 7687
USW Local 8183
USW Local 9402
USW Women of Steel
WA 28th Legislative Democrats
Washington Fair Trade Coalition
Washington State Democrats
Washington State Labor Council
Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders
WashTech
West Area Labor Council
West Texas Building & Construction Trades Council
Western Colorado Congress
Western Mass. Jobs with Justice
Western New York Area Labor Federation
Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO Central Labor Council
Whatever It Takes For Progress
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition
Witness for Peace – Upper Midwest
Women Occupy San Diego
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Maine Chapter
Young Active Labor Leaders, Texas AFL-CIO