

# How the TPP Threatens U.S. Jobs & Wages

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a massive new trade and investment pact that has been negotiated behind closed doors for over five years between the United States and eleven other Pacific Rim countries, including notorious human rights violators like Vietnam and Malaysia. **The TPP threatens to offshore good-paying American jobs, lower wages and increase inequality by forcing Americans into competition with workers abroad paid less than 65 cents an hour.**

While the American people have been explicitly barred from knowing what negotiators proposed in our names, hundreds of corporate lobbyists were given special “cleared advisor” status and access to the secret texts throughout the negotiating process. A final TPP deal was announced on October 5, 2015, but cannot be enacted without Congressional approval.

Even with the extreme secrecy, we still know a lot about the TPP due to leaked documents and admissions made by negotiators. While it is impossible to judge all aspects of the TPP until the text is finally released, it is already clear that the TPP will hurt the U.S. economy in a variety of ways.

- We know that the TPP includes **rules of origin** for at least some critical products, such as automobiles, that are worse than standards set in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This enables products assembled from parts made in “third party” countries that are not subject to any TPP obligations, such as China, to enter the U.S. duty-free, undercutting U.S. manufacturing.
- We know that the TPP includes **investor-state dispute resolution (ISDS)** provisions that make it safer — and, in fact, create incentives — for U.S. firms to offshore jobs to foreign countries where they can operate under privileged foreign investor status rather than be forced to deal with that country’s regulatory policy and courts.
- We know that the TPP includes **procurement provisions** requiring that certain government purchasing programs afford foreign bidders “national treatment” and “non-discrimination,” effectively barring Buy American and Buy Local preferences, and potentially rolling back the policy space needed for “Green Economy” programs required to jumpstart a sustainable economy.
- We also know that the TPP does not include the **currency safeguards** demanded by a bipartisan majority in Congress that would prevent known currency manipulators like Vietnam, Japan and Malaysia from devaluing their currencies to gain an unfair trade advantage over U.S. employers.

Urge Congress to stand up for constituents’ jobs and wages by voting NO on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.