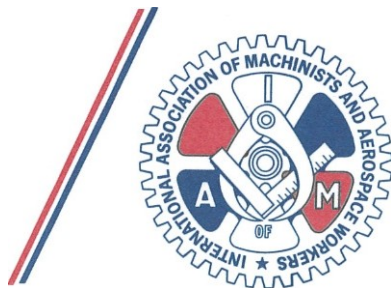


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

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967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 23, 2013

Dear Representative,

I write to urge you to sign on to a letter to President Obama being circulated by Congresswoman Rosa Delaura and Congressman George Miller that expresses serious concerns about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the potential surrender of Congressional authority through a "fast track" ratification process.

One of the most ambitious FTAs ever negotiated by the U.S., the TPP goes far beyond tariff reduction and seeks to undue the financial reform measures of Dodd-Frank, end Buy American requirements and other governmental procurement practices, and undermine current U.S. regulations covering such areas as food safety, the environment, and patent and copyright law. While the TPP covers a broad swath of nontariff issues, it would not require countries that lack labor rights, like Vietnam, to end their authoritarian human rights abuses.

Historically, Congress has relinquished its Constitutional authority over trade for the most egregious FTAs like the NAFTA. Most recently, fast track, which effectively strips FTAs of Congressional oversight and only requires an up or down for passage, was used to pass the Korea-U.S. FTA. The FTA with Korea was sold on the promise of expanded exports to that country. Unfortunately, our worst fears have been realized. Not only have imports from Korea increased, but our exports to Korea have fallen in every month since the passage of the FTA. An expanding trade deficit means a loss of American jobs, which, at a time of historically high unemployment, we cannot afford.

In 2008 President Obama ran on the promise of a "new day in trade." So far our trade policy has been the same old nightmare with rising corporate profits and the loss of U.S. jobs and a decline in living standards for ordinary Americans. Too much is at stake with the TPP and the recently initiated Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with Europe for Congress not to have the ability to shape these FTAs.

I strongly urge you to sign on to the Delauro-Miller letter (see attached). To do so, please contact Dan Zeitlin (Delauro) by phone at 5-3661 or by email at Daniei.Zeitlin@mail.house.gov.

If you have questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

//attachments

SUPPORT ENHANCED CONGRESSIONAL ROLE IN TRADE PACTS

*Sign letter to President making clear need for new congressional trade authority procedure,
not more "Fast Track"*

Dear Colleague:

As you know, the Administration continues to negotiate a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with a host of nations. In addition, the United States and European Union just launched negotiations on a Transatlantic Free Trade Area (TAFTA), which they have dubbed the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Both negotiations focus on establishing binding obligations that would cover a wide swath of policy issues beyond traditional tariff matters, including policies related to labor rights, patent and copyright, land use, food safety, agriculture and product standards, natural resources, the environment, professional licensing, competition, state-owned enterprises and government procurement policies, as well as financial, healthcare, energy, e-commerce, telecommunications and other service sector regulations.

The last grant by Congress of "Fast Track" authority, which delegated to the President Congress's constitutional trade authority, expired in 2007. Fast Track allowed Presidents to negotiate trade agreements, sign them and then send them to Congress for expedited approval without opportunity for amendments. We believe that such Twentieth Century "Fast Track" is simply not appropriate for 21st Century agreements like the TPP and TTIP with their broad scope and must be replaced before Congress considers these agreements.

Accordingly, we urge you to sign the letter below to President Obama laying out concerns over the lack of adequate congressional consultation during TPP negotiations and opposing "Fast Track" Trade Promotion Authority or any other mechanism delegating Congress' authority over trade policy that continues to exclude us from having a meaningful role in the formative stages of trade agreements and throughout negotiating and approval processes.

For more information or to co-sign the letter, please contact Dan Zeitlin (Delaura) by phone at 5-3661 or by email at Daniei.Zeitlin@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress

Dear President Obama:

We write to express our serious concern with the ongoing negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a potential agreement of tremendous consequence for our country. Specifically, we remain deeply troubled by the continued lack of adequate congressional consultation in many areas of the proposed pact that deeply implicate Congress' constitutional and domestic policy authorities.

For some time, members of Congress have urged your administration to engage in broader and deeper consultations with members of the full range of committees of Congress whose jurisdiction touches on the numerous issues being negotiated. Many have raised concerns relating to reports about the agreement's proposed content. While your Administration maintains the goal of signing a TPP FTA at the October 2013 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, we believe that to date the process has failed to provide adequate consultation with Congress.

Such opportunity for input from Congress is critical as the TPP FTA will include binding obligations that touch upon a wide swath of policy matters under the authority of Congress. Beyond traditional tariff issues, these include policies related to labor, patent and copyright, land use, food, agriculture and product standards, natural resources, the environment, professional licensing, competition, state-owned enterprises and government procurement policies, as well as financial, healthcare, energy, e-commerce, telecommunications and other service sector regulations.

In light of the broad scope of today's trade agreements, it is even more vital that Congress have a fulsome role in shaping these pacts' terms. Given our concerns, we will oppose "Fast Track" Trade Promotion Authority or any other mechanism delegating Congress' constitutional authority over trade policy that continues to exclude us from having a meaningful role in the formative stages of trade agreements and throughout negotiating and approval processes.

Congress, not the Executive Branch, must determine when an agreement meets the objectives Congress sets in the exercise of its Article I-8 exclusive constitutional authority to set the terms of trade. For instance, an agreement that does not specifically meet congressional negotiating objectives must not receive preferential consideration in Congress. A new trade agreement negotiation and approval process that restores a robust role for Congress is essential to achieving U.S. trade agreements that can secure prosperity for the greatest number of Americans, while preserving the vital tenets of American democracy in the era of globalization.

Twentieth Century "Fast Track" is simply not appropriate for 21st Century agreements and must be replaced. The United States cannot afford another trade agreement that replicates the mistakes of the past. We can and must do better.

We are deeply committed to transforming U.S. trade policy into a tool for creating and retaining family-wage jobs in America, safeguarding the environment, maintaining consumer protection and improving the quality of life throughout the country. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Congress and the Executive Branch are working together to meet that critical goal.

Sincerely,

Rosa DeLauro, George Miller, Steve Israel, Louise Slaughter, Nydia Velazquez, Bennie Thompson, John Conyers, Nick Rahall, Robert Brady, Dutch Ruppersberger, Linda Sanchez, Peter DeFazio, Mike Michaud, Henry Waxman, Elijah Cummings, Maxine Waters, Jose E. Serrano, Chaka Fattah, Marcy Kaptur, Sam Farr, Ed Pastor, Jim McDermott, Tim Walz, Danny Davis, Anna Eshoo, Loretta Sanchez, Carolyn Maloney, Niki Tsongas, Zoe Lofgren, Lloyd Doggett, Albio Sires, Frederica Wilson, Mike Honda, Gary Peters, Tim Bishop, Andre Carson, John Yarmuth, Peter Welch, Ann Kuster, Patrick Murphy, Dan Kildee, Alcee Hastings, Tim Ryan, Betty McCollum, Barbara Lee, Jan Schakowsky, Jerry Nadler, Yvette Clarke, Jim McGovern, John Tierney.