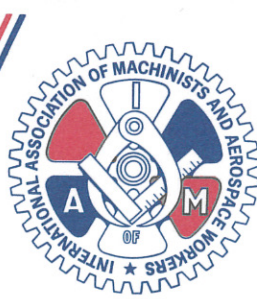


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

June 23, 2015

Dear Senator,

**I write to strongly urge you to vote against cloture for the misnamed Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, HR 2146.** The legislation would allow for a Fast Track Congressional ratification process for any free trade agreement for the next six years.

This poorly conceived legislation includes unenforceable negotiating objectives, including for the nearly completed and secretly negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Further it fails to address currency manipulation, a fundamental trade issue in Asia that has led to a significant loss of American manufacturing jobs.

Instead of rushing to pass Fast Track legislation, Congress should first be dealing with the reauthorization of the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank which expires on June 30. The delay in refinancing the Ex-Im Bank has already shut off funding to support the purchase of commercial aircraft because the Ex-Im Bank is required to give Congress a thirty day notice when it provides financing of \$100 million or more. This unconscionable delay is costing American jobs.

Congress should also pass an improved Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program prior to voting on any Fast Track legislation. The current TAA bill only funds the program at \$450 million even though the Administration originally said that it needed to be funded at \$575 million. Nor does this TAA bill apply to public sector workers who are hurt by trade.

Given that a number of conservative organizations, like the Club for Growth, score votes on Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), and that 158 House Republicans voted against the TAA bill less than two weeks ago, it is highly questionable that the Republican controlled House will pass even TAA once Fast Track legislation has passed.

Additionally, House Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) members are upset that TAA is being tied to African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Congressman G.K. Butterfield, CBC Chairman, recently signed a letter to Senate leadership asking that AGOA not be used as "a bargaining chip to pass unrelated trade legislation."

It's time for the Senate to put the brakes on Fast Track. I urge you to vote no on cloture for HR 2146.

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

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger  
International President