

Background Note

Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations, Washington D.C., December 7-12, 2014.

Like most contemporary trade deals, the TPP is not so much about trade as it is about deregulation and forcing governments to pay corporations and wealthy investors for the cost of complying with environmental and other public interest safeguards. Here are a few of the most dangerous provisions.

Investment tribunals. The TPP would allow corporations to sue governments for millions or billions in [money damages](#) if environmental or health regulations [interfere](#) with profits.

- Friends of the Earth, Old Trade Wine in New Bottle, available at <http://www.foe.org/news/archives/2012-05-old-trade-deal-wine-in-new-bottle-us-model-for-trans>

Deregulation of chemicals/ food labeling. The TPP could stymie consumers' right to know by curbing food and product labeling requirements, and undermining efforts to more effectively regulate chemicals, including those associated with breast cancer, autism, and infertility. Under the TPP, such consumer and health protections would be considered "technical barriers to trade." Under the World Trade Organization, U.S. regulations around country of origin meat labeling and dolphin safe tuna labeling have been successfully challenged, and it is the U.S.'s stated negotiating objective for the TPP to lower such "trade barriers" even more.

- Office of U.S. Trade Representative, 2014 Report on Technical Barriers to Trade, available at, <http://www.ustr.gov/sites/default/files/2014%20TBT%20Report.pdf>
- Friends of the Earth, Sinister Partners, available at, <http://www.foe.org/news/archives/2013-06-sinister-partners-transatlantic-trade-agreement--tox>

Undermining climate policy. The TPP would [increase U.S. coal, oil and gas exports](#) to the world that are fueling global warming.

- Friends of the Earth, Control Fossil Fuel Exports, available at <http://www.foe.org/news/archives/2012-11-control-fossil-fuel-exports-part-1>

Corporate control of the genetic code. The TPP is likely to tighten corporate patents on plants, animals and other life forms, giving corporations monopolies over the use of parts of the genetic code.

- **Public Citizen, The TPP's New Plant-Related Intellectual Property Provisions** October 2014, available at <http://www.citizen.org/documents/impact-of-the-trans-pacific-partnership-on-farmers-and-food-security.pdf>

Food safety compromised. Food safety standards would be lowered if the "benefit" of protecting the food we eat – which is often undervalued -- is outweighed by the "cost" to corporate profits.

- Friends of the Earth, The Trans Pacific Partnership Regulatory Coherence Chapter is an Environmental Hazard, available at <http://www.foe.org/news/archives/2012-06-the-tpp-trade-agreement-investment-chapter-is-an-env>