



Friends of the Earth Urges a No Vote on Fast Track Bill

- **Fast Track or Trade Promotion Authority legislation would grease the skids for approval of the [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) with Japan and other [Pacific Rim](#) countries and the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union](#).** These deals are not so much about trade as they are about [deregulation](#) and [forcing governments to pay corporations](#) and wealthy investors for the cost of complying with [environmental](#) and other public interest safeguards.
- **The Founders intended for Congress to set policy for our international trade agreements.** [Fast Track](#) effectively delegates congressional prerogatives to the U.S. Trade Representative's office. [Fast Track legislation](#) would sharply limit Congress' role in trade policy by forcing the [TPP](#) and [TTIP](#) deals through on a quick up or down vote, with no amendments.
- **This Fast Track process is especially dangerous because the [TPP](#) and [TTIP](#) deals are negotiated behind closed doors.** The negotiating text is kept secret from the public and press. This is in contrast to the practice followed by previous administrations, which released text after each negotiating round.
- **We do have some idea of what is in the [TPP](#) and [TTIP](#) negotiating text.** This is thanks to WikiLeaks and others who have received [secret documents](#) from disillusioned insiders. Governments and corporations have also published their general negotiating objectives for the agreements. A few of the most dangerous provisions in the Pacific and Atlantic deals include:
 - **Investment tribunals.** [Investment chapters](#) in the [TPP](#) and [TTIP](#) would allow [firms](#) to [sue governments for millions or billions in money damages](#) if [environmental](#) or [public health](#) regulations [interfere](#) with [expected future profits](#). This would discourage [government action](#) like [restricting oil and gas drilling](#), imposing [pollution controls](#), limiting the use of [fracking \(hydraulic fracturing\)](#), or even stopping construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

- **Pesticide deregulation threatens bees.** The TTIP could thwart U.S. and European efforts to stop the use of bee-killing neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides. Neonics are a leading cause of bee declines. Europe has temporarily banned the use of three neonics, and cities across the U.S. have taken steps to eliminate them. But chemical companies like Syngenta and Bayer want to use the TTIP to roll back this progress and stop future action to save the bees.
- **Deregulation of chemicals.** TTIP could “harmonize down” effective [European chemical regulations](#) so that they approach [low federal standards](#) in the U.S. In coming years, [TTIP could stymie congressional action](#) to more effectively regulate chemicals associated with [breast cancer, autism and infertility](#). It also could undercut more [effective toxic chemical regulation currently on the books in California](#) and other states.
- **Undermining climate policy.** Ambassador Froman and the Republican congressional leadership are hell-bent on using [TPP](#) and [TTIP](#) to [increase U.S. coal, oil and gas exports](#) to the world that are fueling global warming. For example, Froman apparently has already been successful in challenging an EU fuel quality directive that would limit shipments to Europe of dirty tar sands oil, including that which would flow through pipelines like the proposed Keystone XL system for export from U.S. ports. A leaked [European proposal for TTIP energy](#) provisions similarly would expand fossil fuel exports from the U.S. to the EU. The TPP is, in the same way, designed to protect “[free trade](#)” in [dirty energy](#) products such as tar sands oil, coal from the Powder River Basin, and liquefied natural gas shipped out of West Coast ports. The result would be more climate change from carbon emissions across the Pacific.
- **GMO labeling at risk.** [TTIP](#) could open the door for [U.S. exports of genetically engineered goods](#) into Europe, where market access is currently restricted -- or at least labeling is required -- because of [safety concerns](#). It could also undercut GMO labeling initiatives in the U.S.
- **Corporate control of the genetic code.** Leaked text of TPP [intellectual property provisions](#) protects [patents on plants, animals](#) and other life forms, giving corporations monopolies over the use of parts of the [genetic code](#) that have evolved naturally and are part of our common natural and human heritage,
- **Food safety compromised.** EU [food safety measures](#) were [targeted as trade barriers](#) in a [USTR report](#), including restrictions on imports of [beef](#) treated with growth hormones, chicken washed in chlorine, and meat produced with growth stimulants. Conversely, the Europeans could use TTIP to attack higher U.S. standards related to mad cow disease.

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