



November 26, 2013

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT TPP

*Tell Congress to **deny fast track status to TPP!***

TPP, the Trans Pacific Partnership, is a trade agreement being negotiated by twelve countries including the United States and Japan. While the text of the agreement has been kept secret, we do know that some six hundred corporate lawyers have been busily writing specific provisions to advance the interests of their clients. Some critics have called TPP little more than a "corporate wish list".

If President Obama has his way, none of these corporate giveaways will be subjected to the scrutiny that they deserve. The president is seeking "fast track" authority that would strip Congress of its ability to amend the agreement in any way. With fast track, Congress would be forced to accept or reject the entire agreement on a simple up or down vote.

And it gets worse: TPP not only usurps congressional authority, and fails to represent the interests of ordinary Americans; it also allows corporations to collect monetary damages if a law or regulation interferes with its expectation of profit. Consider the case of [Lone Pine Resources v. Canada](#), a lawsuit brought under a similar provision of NAFTA. In 2011, Quebec imposed a fracking moratorium and cancelled some gas leases under the St. Lawrence River. In response, Lone Star, which reportedly paid fifteen million dollars for some of the cancelled leases, turned around and sued Canada before an international tribunal demanding 250 million dollars in damages. In its suit Lone Pine alleged that Quebec's lawfully enacted moratorium served no "public purpose". And the Lone Pine case isn't unique. Exxon, Chevron, and Dow are among the corporations that have brought more than 500 similar lawsuits. Supposedly sovereign nations have been forced to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in damages because environmental, health and safety laws have been found to stand in the way of corporate profit.