

RE: Dangers of The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)

Dear Honorable Representative Jared Huffman,

I wanted to bring to your attention a few of my concerns in regards to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that may be scheduled for consideration within the US House of Representatives.

First, the TPP Agreement has been drafted in secret, without influence from anyone beyond multi-national corporations and their business interests. Interested parties including environmental activists, indigenous peoples, and the general public has been systematically shut out of the negotiations. Therefore, by design the TPP agreement cannot and will not address any of the concerns raised by such groups. It's absolutely unconscionable that a bill marked "CONFIDENTIAL" would ever be considered as law in a democratic country that is supposed to provide for open discourse among all concerned citizens.

Second, if the TPP agreement is brought to the House floor to be voted upon, the agreement mandates that no portion, no sentence, no word of the agreement can be changed or altered or repealed. So if voted into law, then the TPP agreement cannot be changed or repealed unless every single member nation taking part in the agreement agree to the changes. The United States should never be inextricably shackled to other nations in this way, especially in perpetuity.

And finally, according to the classified Investment Chapter written in January of 2015 which was leaked to the public, the TPP provides for the creation of a supra-national court or tribunal that allows multi-national corporations to sue countries in order to obtain taxpayer compensation for future expected losses if that country's ordinary citizens protest or block a project that is permitted by the TPP. These tribunals are designed to be held in secret, they have no appeal mechanism, and do not subordinate themselves to human rights laws or the public interest. There is literally no way for the public or people directly affected by the rulings of the tribunal to have their concerns addressed or even heard. In other words, this supra-national court or tribunal as dictated by the TPP agreement has been designed to create a legal environment where the interests of multi-national corporations are put above the interests of the government, the general public, and other interested parties.

Representative Huffman, I strongly urge you to vote against the TPP if or when it comes to the floor for your consideration. The TPP as it is currently written is specifically designed to undermine the democratic process that this country was founded on. In addition, it also has the ability to significantly undermine your ability to represent your constituents because of the very nature of the supra-national tribunals.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,

Sincerely,

Darren Overby
San Anselmo, CA