



VIA FACSIMILE

April 28, 2015

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.3 million hard-working men and women of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), I urge you to oppose "fast track" trade promotion authority. With all due respect to President Obama and the elected politicians who support this trade deal, this agreement will hurt hard-working families, workers, and our shared future.

For over three decades, fast track trade deals have brought broken promises—not prosperity—to hard-working families. During the recent era of free trade agreements families have endured lost jobs, stagnant wages and rising levels of income inequality. In the face of these truths, we are told by those who support this bad trade deal that we are misunderstanding the positives. In actuality, we understand the harsh reality that workers and families will again pay the price.

Fast track has been used to push through some of our nation's most destructive trade agreements and the TPP may be the worst yet. It would roll back regulations that could be construed as a "barrier to trade," which includes environmental, consumer, and labor protections. And it has been put together in secret, with the advice and counsel of hundreds of corporate special interests but absolutely no input from labor or other groups that fight on behalf of the working and middle classes.

For Senators to accept a trade deal that will govern 40 percent of the world's GDP with no opportunity to make changes that would ensure the interests of hard-working families is not just wrong, it is dangerous. Given the impact these agreements will have on our nation, we need more debate on trade, not less.

At a time when our elected leaders should be focusing on raising wages, creating more opportunity, and addressing income inequality, "fast track" trade promotion authority accomplishes the opposite.

With that in mind, we strongly urge you to vote no.

Sincerely,

International President