

**Article notes: February 24, 2014  
Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Don't fast track a polluters' bill of rights; (FOE blog, 1/24/14)**

This opinion piece urges readers to oppose the current Fast Track legislation being considered by Congress for the following reasons:

- It would undercut the constitutional authority of Congress to review and approve international trade agreements; and
- It would rush approval of the “environmentally hazardous” TPP and TTIP.

**Commentary: Trade agreements need meaningful congressional review, congresswoman says; (Chellie Pingree, Portland Press Herald, 1/27/14)**

This opinion piece written by Maine Congresswoman Chellie Pingree states her opposition to Fast Track legislation proposed by the USTR for the following reasons:

- The TPP and TTIP are complicated trade agreements and deserve a thorough review by Congress as required by the Constitution;
- The precedent represented by NAFTA provides little evidence of domestic job creation, strengthening of trade and lower consumer prices; and
- The TPP and TTIP are likely to include many non-tariff provisions and are actually largely focused on the removal of “non-tariff barriers” .

**SOTU: President's Base Opposes Fast Track for TPP (Citizen Trade; 1/27/14)**

This article discusses the opposition to Fast Track authority by more than 550 labor, environmental , family farm and other organizations that are traditionally supportive of President Obama's policy priorities. This opposition was voiced in a recent letter to the President signed by these organizations which voiced the following concerns about Fast Track authority:

- It undermines Congressional authority to review and approve international trade agreements;
- It would allow the President to sign trade agreements prior to Congressional approval;
- It would allow the Executive Branch to alter federal laws to comply with trade agreements; and
- It would limit Congressional debate and prohibit amendments.

**Attorney General Mills calls for trade deal to protect Maine's anti-tobacco efforts; (Maine AG Press Release, 1/28/14)**

**Text of letter to USTR Michael Froman, signed by more than 40 state AGs; (1/27/14)**

The press release from Maine Attorney General Janet Mills details her opposition to the current TPP provision regarding the treatment of tobacco “like any other product for sale” and maintains that the inclusion of such a provision would undermine Maine’s effort to regulate tobacco to protect the public health and welfare. Along with more than 40 Attorneys General from other states, AG Mills signed a letter to that effect which was sent to USTR Michael Froman.

**Timing of TPA Depends on Obama, Says Former Chief of Staff to USTR, Cato Scholar Says Jettison Investor-State Dispute Settlement ; (BNA; 1/29/14)**

This article details the assertion of Timothy J. Keeler, former USTR Chief of Staff, that the timing of when Fast Track authority will be considered by Congress for approval will depend on the President’s willingness to expend his political capital. The article also reports on the assertion from Dan Ikenson, from the Cato Institute, that passage of the TPP and the TTIP would be enhanced if both agreements “jettisoned” inclusion of ISDS provisions.

**Statement by United States Trade Representative Michael Froman on the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014 ; (USTR Newsletter; 1/31/14)**

In this statement, USTR Froman advocates strongly for bipartisan approval of the President’s Fast Track authority proposal and maintains that the proposal will:

- Open new trade markets;
- Support U.S. jobs;
- Increase exports of Made in America products; and
- Ensure a level playing field for the US to compete in international trade.

**Executive Summary: Investor-State dispute settlement under TTIP – a risk for environmental regulation? ; (Heinrich Boll Foundation; 2/5/14)**

As stated in this summary, ISDS provisions likely to be included in the TTIP have the potential to:

- Restrict the ability of sovereign governments to develop environmental rules and regulations;
- Require fair and equal treatment for all investors;
- Prohibit indirect expropriation; and
- Inclusion of the so called “umbrella clause”

(A complete copy of this 25 page report on ISDS and the TTIP can be viewed online at [http://boell.org/downloads/HBS-TTIP\\_2.pdf](http://boell.org/downloads/HBS-TTIP_2.pdf))

**USTR calls All-Day Briefing for Cleared Advisers on TPP for Next Week; (Inside U.S. Trade; 2/6/14)**

This article reports that in response to criticism about the alleged secrecy surrounding the TPP negotiations, the USTR planned an all day briefing on February 11<sup>th</sup> for cleared advisers.

**USTR cancels TPP [Vermont] briefing over presence of media; (Politico; 2/10/14)**

This article reports that the USTR cancelled a briefing to Vermont state legislators when it was learned that media would be covering the event.

**USTR TPP Briefing To Cleared Advisers Reveals Major Outstanding Issues (Inside U.S. Trade; 2/12/14)**

This article reports that the USTR briefing for cleared advisers that took place on February 11<sup>th</sup> revealed that a number of major issues are yet to be resolved in the TPP. These unresolved issues include:

- intellectual property;
- state-owned enterprises; and
- labor rights.

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It is also reported that the TPP is unlikely to be finalized, as hoped by the Obama administration, by April 2014.

**The Trans Pacific Partnership is in trouble on Capitol Hill. Here's why.; (Washington Post; 2/19/14)**

This article reports that there is significant resistance in Congress towards approving President Obama's request for Fast Track authority and the approval of the TPP. Much of the current opposition to Fast Track comes from prominent Congressional Democrats including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. The article suggests that from a political standpoint, it would not be fruitful for the President to push hard for approval of these measures at the current time.

