The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a massive, secret trade deal that’s being negotiated among 12 countries on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. Participating in the talks now are representatives from the U.S., Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Chile, Brunei, Singapore and Vietnam. Countries like the Philippines and South Korea also have indicated they want to join. Negotiations have been going on behind closed doors for more than three years and are nearing their end. The round in Salt Lake City in November was the most secretive yet, with only chief negotiators and “experts” allowed to be part of the discussion. The latest round took place this month in Singapore.

About 600 U.S. corporate lobbyists are acting as official advisors and working with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. They are making huge decisions about jobs and workers’ rights, environmental standards, food safety, patents and intellectual property rights and so much more, and all in secret. The agreement then must be approved by all participating countries. For the U.S., that means both the House and Senate must approve the trade deal. The Obama administration and TPP supporters want a process called “fast track authority” or “Trade Promotion Authority,” which would allow only an up-or-down vote with no amendments to the TPP. CWA and our coalition allies are fighting hard to stop fast track. It’s a fight we can win.

Why all the secrecy? Why aren’t we hearing about what TPP would do?

Because U.S. corporations desperately want this deal, and they know that it’s a corporate and Wall Street giveaway. The TPP is much more than a “free-trade” agreement. It’s designed to make the world safe for corporate investment and profits by reducing labor costs and undercutting workers’ rights; dismantling labor, environmental, health and financial laws and regulations that could affect profits; and setting up a process to resolve any disputes by going through special international tribunals rather than our own court system.

U.S. workers are on to the fact that trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, trade deals with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and now TPP benefit the 1 percent at the expense of the rest of us. Workers’ jobs go overseas as corporations chase subsistence wages, like Vietnam’s 25 cents an hour, and seek out places with little or no regulation.

Most members of Congress don’t even know what’s in the proposed agreement. That’s why Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) has called TPP, “the largest corporate power grab you never heard of.”

What we do know, through leaks of the various chapters, is that TPP is a bad deal for workers in every country. That’s why CWA has joined together with our coalition partners – Sierra Club, Citizens Trade Campaign, Public Citizen and others – to stop this attack on working conditions. None of us can win this fight alone. But together we can stand up and fight back.

“I would characterize TPP as a punch in the face to the middle class of America but I’m not allowed to tell you why..”

– Rep. Alan Grayson (D-Fla.)

**Just the Facts**

- **5** Number of the 29 chapters that actually have anything to do with traditional trade issues.
- **4** Number of years that negotiators want TPP papers to remain secret after it’s signed into law.
- **TPP** means forever. Once signed, it would have no expiration date, and more countries could sign on.
- **0** Number of union, public interest, environmental, consumer and other groups that have seen the entire document.
- **600** Number of corporate lobbyists – “trade advisors” – who have seen the entire document.
American workers know that free trade means lost jobs. It happened under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiated 20 years ago. It happened under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement negotiated last year. Overall, NAFTA resulted in a loss of nearly 700,000 jobs. Promoters of the Korean trade agreement promised that 70,000 new U.S. jobs would be created; instead, U.S. workers already have lost 40,000 jobs. It’s not only manufacturing jobs that are at risk. U.S. corporations already are projected to shift 3.4 million service sector jobs offshore between 2003 and 2015 in their pursuit of the lowest possible labor costs, non-existent workers’ rights and little or no workplace regulation. The TPP trade deal would make an already bad situation far worse.

More than 500,000 U.S. call center jobs have gone overseas just in the past five years. And countries like the Philippines, which is building a huge base of 700,000 call center agents primarily serving the U.S. market, are looking to join the TPP too.

One way we can stop this hemorrhaging of good American jobs is by convincing Congress to pass the U.S. Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act of 2013 (H.R. 2909 and S. 1565). We call it “Press One for America.” The legislation would require all call center employees to identify the country from which they are taking each phone call, and if they are outside the United States, they must offer the consumer the opportunity to be transferred back to an operator based in the U.S. In addition, it would create a publicly available “bad actor” list of all employers that relocate their call center or customer service work overseas; these businesses would be barred from receiving federal loans, grants or subsidies for three years.

The bill has support from both Democrats and Republicans, though last year House Republicans blocked it from being considered in Congress.

**The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS)**

- **70,000 jobs promised**
- **40,000 jobs lost**

**North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**

- **200,000 jobs promised**
- **682,900 jobs lost**

*SHIPPING OUR JOBS OFFSHORE: WHY U.S. WORKERS WANT FAIR TRADE, NOT FREE TRADE*

The call center bill won’t mean anything unless Congress kills “fast track” authorization for the TPP. If the TPP is ratified, legislation like the call center bill that would protect U.S. jobs could be challenged and invalidated by foreign corporations and countries. Even more tech, IT and call center jobs will head offshore. Leaks of some of the chapters have given us a look at what TPP would mean for jobs.

**How bad is TPP for U.S. jobs?**

- Corporate rights would be greatly expanded, with new protections for investment. The goal: to make it even safer for corporations to invest offshore in lower-wage countries. (Covered in the TPP Investment Chapter).
- The U.S. government — and possibly state governments — would be barred from giving any preference to U.S.-based firms and workers when awarding contracts. As a result, corporations in any of the 12 TPP countries would have equal rights to bid on U.S. taxpayer funded contracts. (Covered in the TPP Procurement Chapter).
- TPP would explicitly forbid the U.S. — or any country — from requiring that a foreign firm set up a domestic operation to provide services. This would allow call centers in foreign countries to supply services to the U.S. without employing any U.S. workers. (Covered in the “trade in cross border services” texts.)
- Corporations would be able to challenge U.S. laws that don’t closely follow any of these and other TPP provisions. For example, under the investment chapter of the TPP, corporations could challenge the call center bill based on an adverse impact on “expected future profits.” It would be heard in international UN or World Bank tribunals, bypassing our democratic legislative and judicial system. And U.S. taxpayers could be forced to pay up. (Covered in the TPP Investment Chapter).

**SAY NO TO TPP FAST TRACK: A FIGHT WE CAN WIN**

Some members of Congress are trying to put the brakes on the TPP.

In a series of letters to the White House, at least 194 members of Congress have publicly expressed their concerns about the secretive trade deal, bringing plans for a speedy ratification to a screeching halt. Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and George Miller (D-Calif.) have the led the effort to spotlight the lack of congressional input during the TPP negotiating process and to take a stand against “fast track,” also known as Trade Promotion Authority.

“Twentieth Century ‘Fast Track’ is simply not appropriate for 21st Century agreements and must be replaced,” said their letter, which was signed by 151 House Democrats. “The United States cannot afford another trade agreement that replicates the mistakes of the past. We can and must do better.”

Democrats aren’t alone. Twenty-seven House Republicans also offered their own objections to “fast track.” And a number of companion letters authored by individual members of Congress are helping to build momentum against this massive trade deal.

“Our 20 years of experience in trade deals, going back to North American Free Trade Agreement, has proven that we lose far more jobs than we gain, and that our pay and benefits are pushed down with global competition as the excuse,” said CWA President Larry Cohen. “That’s not the future we want for ourselves or our children. We must pursue economic and trade policies that are best for American workers — not multinational corporations.”

The loud opposition of these 194 lawmakers is only the beginning. We’re adding our voices to this fight to say, “Down with fast track!” Together, we’ll pry open these closed-door negotiating sessions and actually have a say in the future of our country.

This is a fight we can win.
The only way we can change the Trans-Pacific Partnership is if we stop fast track. It’s a fight we can win. But it will take all of us, working together, contacting our senators and representatives, to make sure our voices are heard.

The Sierra Club has worked on trade issues for nearly two decades, because “trade rules have a huge impact on environmental protections.” In 1998, for example, the World Trade Organization ordered the U.S. to weaken Endangered Species Act protections for sea turtles being killed in shrimp-fishing nets.

In an ongoing dispute, a U.S. corporation, Renco Group, is suing the government of Peru for $800 million under the free trade agreement between the U.S. and Peru. Why? Because Peru wouldn’t give the corporation a third extension on its obligation to clean up pollutants and contaminants from a metallic smelter that Renco invested in. Another company, Lone Pine Resources, is using investment rules under NAFTA to sue Canada for $250 million. Why? Because a Canadian moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, might slow down the company from raking in more profits, said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

Fracking is a dirty and violent process that dislodges gas deposits from shale rock formations. Many communities and activists are protesting the damage being done to their health, water supply, homes and living conditions as a result of current levels of fracking. TPP is an enormous threat to efforts to stop the destruction being caused by oil and gas unconventional drilling and could lead to a significant increase in dirty fracking in communities across the U.S., Sierra Club says.

With negotiations around TPP winding down, secrecy is at an all-time high.

At the Salt Lake City, Utah, round, only “chief negotiators and key experts” were at the table, even though negotiations covered a broad range of topics, including e-commerce, the environment, labor, financial services, intellectual property, investment, legal issues and more.

“Every time I think it’s impossible for the TPP negotiations to become any less transparent, the U.S. Trade Representative proves me wrong,” said Arthur Stamoulis, executive director of Citizens Trade Campaign. “The only thing about the TPP that’s not a secret is who is stands to benefit: big corporations.”

Over the three years of negotiations, unions and public interest groups, including CWA, Citizens Trade Campaign, Public Citizen, Sierra Club and others – have been left in the dark.

And the few lawmakers who are permitted to read the draft texts are only permitted to see just a small part of the picture.

The Department of Energy now reviews the export of natural gas to other countries but would lose that authority under TPP. There is growing demand from other countries for the natural gas that is obtained by fracking in the U.S. The TPP could mean automatic approval of natural gas export permits to TPP countries without any U.S. review at all.

If people knew what was going on, they would stop it.

– Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.)
WATCH WHAT YOU EAT

The TPP will threaten food safety because both countries and corporations will be able to challenge food standards, labeling programs, pesticide regulations and more.

- **DAIRY STANDARDS COULD BE CHALLENGED.** New Zealand-based Fonterra, the world’s largest dairy exporter, has been banned from a number of countries because of products tainted by botulism. The ability for U.S. products to be sold as “antibiotic-free” or “hormone-free” would be challenged.
- **SEAFOOD STANDARDS COULD BE CONTESTED.** The FDA has detained hundreds of seafood exports from TPP countries because they were contaminated. For example, in 2012, the FDA detained 206 imported seafood products from Vietnam alone because of salmonella, E. coli, methyl mercury, fibrin and drug residues.
- **LABELING LAWS COULD DISAPPEAR.** Country-of-origin labeling now required on packages of meat, fruit, vegetables and some nuts sold in U.S. stores would be challenged. Canada and Mexico already have challenged these and other food standard rules under previous trade agreements. The TPP would allow more challenges to our laws.

Consumers who may want to avoid genetically modified foods won’t be able to determine what they can buy.

INTERNET CENSORSHIP

WikiLeaks recently published the secret negotiated draft text for the entire TPP Intellectual Property Rights Chapter. If ratified, the trade deal would

- **CRIMINALIZE THE DIGITAL UNLOCKING OF MOBILE PHONES.** U.S. consumers recently gained more choice and the right to unlock their phones and use other service providers with their devices. The TPP would undo those changes.
- **PREVENT COPYRIGHTED WORKS — textbooks, music, art, literature, scientific research, journals — from reaching the public domains for 70 years after the author’s death. For corporate-owned works, it would take 95 years.

READ THIS CHAPTER AT WWW.WIKILEAKS.ORG/TPP/#EFMKCKKEK

A BAD DEAL FOR WORKERS AND TAXPAYERS

Manufacturing and service sector jobs are at risk, because TPP would provide special benefits to companies that relocate investment and jobs, especially to places like Vietnam and other extremely low wage countries. Wages in Vietnam are about 25 cents an hour.

- **FOREIGN FIRMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL ACCESS TO U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, and** provisions like “Buy American,” “renewable/ recycled” or “sweat free” could be challenged.
- **COMPANIES WITH POOR SAFETY OR WORK RECORDS COULD NOT BE BCriteria FROM GETTING U.S. CONTRACTS,** nor would the horrible human rights or other conditions in participating countries be a factor.
- **PRIVATE CORPORATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE U.S. LAWS AND REGULATIONS,** including the call center bill and those dealing with telecom, health and the environment, if they think our laws limit their “expected future profits.”
- **WAGES, BENEFITS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS WOULD BE ERODED.** We know that trade agreements have helped drive down wages and benefits and increasingly erode our collective bargaining rights. The TPP will speed up this race to the bottom by expanding corporate rights.

The message from CWA President Larry Cohen honoring and recognizing our veterans also pointed out an important truth:

OUR VETERANS DESERVE MORE THAN TICKETS TO A FOOTBALL GAME

Every year we honor the tens of thousands of CWA veterans among our active and retired members. We honor them not simply on Veterans Day, but by ensuring they have the essential health care and other services they need, whether they are working or retired.

But, as Congress begins to take up the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), we need to ask ourselves, “What does patriotism mean in the 21st century?” What is the nature of our democracy, as we recall the sacrifices of so many? Vietnam is a major focus of the TPP. Vietnam has a population of 90 million and a minimum wage of 25 cents per hour. Yes, there are 11 other nations involved in the talks, but a major focus of the National Security Council, State Department and the U.S. Trade Representative is increasing U.S. influence in Vietnam.

Manufacturing jobs are already moving from China to Vietnam, as multinational corporations seek lower wages and fewer environmental regulations. Since NAFTA, Presidents Clinton, Bush and now Obama have all told us that exports would grow, yet now we see services jobs, as well as manufacturing jobs, devastated by these deals, as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and multinational corporations cheer on new places to maximize profits.

Why should we expect better from the TPP and a process that includes 600 multinational corporations and no labor, environmental or elected representatives? We need economic policy, not foreign policy that pretends to be economic policy.

Fair trade means workers’ rights to organize and bargain, not just investment rights. It’s not just about the loss of our jobs, it’s about the effects on our standard of living, as we are forced to choose between cutting pay or exporting our jobs to lower wage nations.

Why have three presidents negotiated terms and conditions that Americans would overwhelmingly reject if we had a voice? Why do we see our veterans honored at an increasing number of events, but not when it comes to their jobs and standard of living?

There are real answers to these questions, and they all start with fighting back. We must say no to trade deals that don’t prioritize our rights, our communities, our living standards and our environment. Investment should be based on that platform, not a belief that the sum total of policies benefiting multinational corporations and U.S. foreign policy works for the rest of us.

Most Democrats and many Republican members of Congress have already told the president that they will oppose the TPP and democracy means transparency, openness and real inclusion of public interests. They have stated that they will only support a process with real debate, not fast tracking another trade deal through the Congress without lawmakers’ involvement or amendments.

We won’t forget the irony of the Vietnamese government becoming a leading party to the TPP negotiations 40 years after the peace agreement and the sacrifice of so many. This is not about the Vietnamese people, but a government that thinks that workers’ rights and environmental and safety concerns are not issues. Let’s make this Veterans Day a time to recommit to our values, as we honor those who served and those who work hard every day, whose jobs, living standards and rights are on the line.

Take Action at cwa-union.org/tpp-veterans

"If you read, write, publish, think, listen, dance, sing or invent; if you farm or consume food; if you’re ill now or might one day be ill, the TPP has you in its crosshairs." - WikiLeaks