WHAT IS THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)?
The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is on track to become the largest free trade agreement ever. It's being negotiated in secret among 12 countries: the U.S., Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. It covers 792 million people and accounts for nearly 40 percent of the world’s economic activity.

LOST JOBS
The TPP would displace at least 600,000 lost jobs nationally.

EL PASO AREA
Many border cities, such as El Paso, suffered serious job loss after NAFTA. More than 159,000 specific Texas jobs have been certified under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program as lost to offshoring or imports since NAFTA. These numbers significantly undercut trade-related job loss as TAA only covers a subset of jobs lost to trade. In Texas-16, slightly more than 28,000 jobs have been certified under TAA as lost to trade since NAFTA! Your district was especially hard hit as the trickle of apparel jobs relocating to Mexico before NAFTA turned into a gusher of offshoring once NAFTA guaranteed duty-free access into the U.S. market for clothing made in Mexico at lower wages than the many thousands of El Pasoans employed in apparel jobs were paid. After many hard years, El Paso has transitioned from being a hub of apparel production (aka the “Blue Jeans Capitol” of the USA) to creating new jobs in customs brokerage, logistics/distribution/transportation, accounting and more that support the production that relocated to Mexico. The TPP would create major new incentives to further shift production of goods intended for sale in the U.S. market away from Mexico by providing duty-free U.S. access for several major low-wage competitors to Mexico.

LOST ANNUAL WAGES
U.S. workers with a minimum wage of $7.25 will have to compete with Vietnamese workers who earn an average minimum wage of less than 60 cents which is less than 1/3 of China’s average minimum wage. The richest 10 percent of Texans are now capturing more than half of all income in the state – a degree of inequality not seen in the 100 years for which records exist.

Learn more about Trans Pacific Partnership by visiting our website. www.StopTheTPP.org

Call U.S. Representative Beto O’Rourke of District 16. 1-888-966-9836

Protect Texas jobs by getting involved & signing the petition. www.stopthetpp.org/take-action