



June 10, 2015

Re: Fast Track (TPA) Legislation

Dear Representative:

In recent weeks we have expressed the opposition of the 600,000 employees of the United States Postal Service we represent to the 'Fast Track' bill now before the Congress. We have urged you to end the undemocratic practice of voting on Trade Promotion Authority before the trade and investment agreements negotiated in secret by our government and its trading partners are made public. Such authority guarantees enactment of these agreements before their flaws can be democratically debated and amended.

There is a long history of failure associated with these so-called 'free trade' agreements and we have outlined specific concerns about both the TPP and the T-TIP agreements. The former may prohibit the expansion of postal financial services and the latter could attack America's system of affordable universal mail service – if the agreements were to embrace the expressed priorities of the Wall Street banks and the European Union on these public policy matters.

Recently we have learned that the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) now being negotiated in the World Trade Organization (WTO) includes an alarming Annex on Competitive Delivery Services. The annex was published by WikiLeaks on June 3, 2015. It would open the pricing of USPS Priority Mail and the legally authorized procedures of the Postal Regulatory Commission to challenges by foreign governments and foreign companies. Our postal system could even be attacked through the undemocratic Investor State Dispute Settlement process.

Worse, if the Obama administration *or a future administration* conceded to the wishes of the European Union, the TiSA could threaten the provision of affordable package delivery to rural and low-income urban areas by restricting our government's ability to include parcels in the definition of the Postal Service's universal service obligation.

Enacting the 'Fast Track' bill would prevent us from fixing these potentially disastrous flaws. For this reason alone, you should reject the TPA legislation.

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We have also learned that the TPP and other proposed trade agreements covered by the TPA bill include rules on the regulation of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). These proposed rules, which could promote privatization and/or dramatically affect the viability of the U.S. Postal Service, should be debated before the TPA vote, not afterwards when they cannot be amended. Only Congress should make decisions about our invaluable postal system – not faceless, unaccountable trade negotiators and certainly not the corporate lobbyists who have been given insider access to these secret talks.

For these reasons, we urge you to stand with the 600,000 postal employees of the U.S. Postal Service who live and work in every Congressional District in the country – and with the millions of businesses and hundreds of millions of citizens we proudly serve every day – by voting NO on the TPA bill.

Sincerely,



Fredric V. Rolando
President
National Association of Letter Carriers



Mark Dimondstein
President
American Postal Workers Union



Paul V. Hogrogian
President
National Postal Mail Handlers Union