The Honorable Ron Wyden United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

September 10, 2014

Dear Chairman Wyden:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to share our objectives regarding 21st century trade agreements and the enhanced congressional oversight needed to ensure that U.S. trade pacts deliver benefits for most Americans, promote broadly shared prosperity, and safeguard the environment and public health. Our organizations oppose the Fast Track model of trade authority and believe that it must be replaced with a new system for negotiating and implementing trade agreements that provides for more congressional and public accountability.

Today's proposed trade agreements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), extend far beyond traditional trade issues such as tariffs. The TPP is a massive 29-chapter agreement that would establish binding rules on issues related to labor rights, energy and the environment, medicine pricing, patents and copyright, food and product safety, Internet freedom and innovation, government procurement, financial regulation, immigration, healthcare, and more. Similarly, TTIP is an expansive agreement that will focus mainly on eliminating so-called "non-tariff" or "technical" barriers to trade—namely behind-the-border domestic regulatory policies. Indeed, the TTIP is focused more on how national or regional policies are made and the uniformity of regulatory standards than on international trade in its traditional sense.

The old Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority is simply not appropriate given the subject matter covered by today's pacts, such as TPP and TTIP. For this reason, we oppose "The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act" (S. 1900), which replicates the overly broad delegation of Congress's constitutional authorities that was provided in the 2002 Fast Track and allows the executive branch to unilaterally select negotiating partner countries, negotiate terms, decide when negotiations are complete and then sign a final pact *before* the full Congress has had an opportunity to approve the contents. Pursuant to S. 1900, signed pacts could then be rushed through Congress—regardless of whether congressional negotiating objectives have been met—with a guaranteed vote in 90 days under rules that circumvent ordinary review, amendment and debate procedures.

In order to deal with today's complex trade agreements and accelerating globalization, a 21<sup>st</sup> century trade authority that includes enhanced mechanisms for Congress to exercise its constitutional authority over U.S. trade policy is needed. While it is important that Congress develop negotiating mandates that outline what all U.S. trade agreements must and must not include, as explained below, even more important is the replacement of the outdated and failed Fast Track *procedures*. Any agreement that will be considered for expedited approval (i.e. limited debate and no amendments) must include robust and binding provisions that truly mark it as a "21<sup>st</sup> Century Trade Agreement." However, including strong mandates without a system to guarantee the mandates have been achieved is like having a speeding limit in a school zone

without any enforcement personnel. To that end, in this new model of trade authority, expedited consideration of completed agreements should *only* be available if and when Congress determines that its negotiating objectives have been satisfied and the executive branch has abided by requirements for increased congressional and public oversight over the entire process.

To achieve improved accountability and outcomes, this enhanced process should include:

**1. Congressional role in selecting appropriate trade partners:** Congress should set criteria, including with respect to human and labor rights compliance, environmental and public health standards, and market access opportunities for U.S. exporters, to determine whether a country is an appropriate trading partner for the United States. Congress must also have the opportunity to determine that a country proposed by the executive branch does not meet such criteria before negotiations commence and is unlikely to be an appropriate partner in the near term, in which case the trade agreement would not qualify for expedited procedures.

## 2. Mandatory negotiating objectives to ensure trade agreements deliver broad benefits:

Congress should set mandatory negotiating objectives outlining what all U.S. trade agreements *must* and *must not* include. Congress must have the opportunity to add agreement-specific objectives.

**3. Enhanced transparency to ensure meaningful congressional and public input:** The Office of the United States Trade Representative must conduct broad, specific, and systematic congressional and public briefings on the progress that negotiators are making towards meeting the established negotiating objectives. In addition, negotiating texts should be made available to the public so that all stakeholders have the information to provide informed input to elected and appointed officials on the implications of the trade deal.

**4. Congressional certification that trade goals have been met before trade negotiations are concluded:** When executive branch negotiators believe that they have concluded negotiations, a final text must be released publicly and Congress must certify that the negotiating objectives have been satisfied before the text of a pact can be deemed final. Only such certification could trigger an expedited vote by Congress to approve the agreement.

**5.** Congressional approval of trade agreements and authorization for the executive branch to sign and enter into agreements: Congress would vote on trade agreements using expedited procedures only if the requirements enumerated above were met. Requiring explicit congressional approval to sign and enter into the agreement enables Congress to ensure that an agreement's contents are acceptable at a time when changes could still be made, if necessary.

**6.** A mechanism for a sizeable minority of the House or Senate to obtain a vote on a resolution to remove an agreement from expedited consideration: As an additional safeguard, a sizeable minority in either chamber should be able to get a privileged floor vote in either chamber on a resolution to withdraw expedited consideration for any pact for a variety of reasons, such as lack of Congressional or public consultation/input or clear breach of negotiating objectives.

**7. Trade negotiating authority must be considered in conjunction with related trade and economic policy legislation.** For example, trade rules that cannot be enforced provide no real benefits for the American people, our environment, or our economy. Moreover, increased trade without concurrent investments in our infrastructure and workforce will surely result in lost opportunities. Addressing long-standing economic problems such as wage suppression and economic inequality will take more than new trade pacts.

Over the course of our nation's history, Congress has regularly created new trade authority mechanisms as the subject matter of agreements changed. We urge you to seize the historic opportunity to replace the outdated Fast Track procedures that our organizations so strongly oppose and create a new trade negotiating and approval process that would help deliver trade agreements that could benefit workers, communities, and the environment and, therefore, rebuild broad support for trade agreements.

Sincerely,

## **National Organizations:**

National Organizations:	
350.org	Consumer Federation of America
ActionAid USA	Corporate Accountability International
Alliance for Democracy	Cultural Survival
Alliance for Retired Americans	Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
Amazon Watch	Domestic Fair Trade Association
American Federation of Labor and Congress of	Earthjustice
Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)	Economic Policy Institute
American Federation of State, County and Municipal	Environmental Investigation Agency
Employees (AFSCME)	Ethix Ventures Inc.
American Federation of Teachers	Fair World Project
American Friends Service Committee	Family Farm Defenders
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)	Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
American Medical Student Association – Just	Fight for the Future
Medicine Campaign	Food & Water Watch
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)	Food Chain Workers Alliance
Association of Professional Flight Attendants	Food Empowerment Project
(APFA)	Free Speech for People
Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers	Friends of the Earth, US
Backbone Campaign	Global Exchange
Black Alliance for Just Immigration	GMO Free USA
BlueGreen Alliance	Gray Panthers
Breast Cancer Action	Green America
Campaign for America's Future	Greenpeace
Center for Biological Diversity	Health Alliance International
Center for Effective Government	Health Care without Harm
Center for Food Safety	Health GAP (Global Access Project)
Center for International Environmental Law	Holy Cross International Justice Office
Citizens Trade Campaign	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Colombia Support Network	Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach	International Association of Machinists and
Common Cause	Aerospace Workers
Communications Workers of America	International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
Conference of Major Superiors of Men	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

International Brotherhood of Teamsters International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE) International Labor Rights Forum International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) IUE-CWA, Industrial Division of the **Communications Workers of America** Jobs With Justice Just Foreign Policy Justice Party Labor Network for Sustainability League of Conservation Voters Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network Medical Mission Sisters Alliance for Justice Moana Nui Move To Amend MoveOn.Org NAACP National Black Rank and File Exchange National Family Farm Coalition National Hmong American Farmers, Inc National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association National Nurses Organizing Committee / National Nurses United Natural Resources Defense Council NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby New Rules for Global Finance Nicaragua Center for Community Action **Oil Change International OpenMedia** International People for the American Way

Physicians for a National Health Program Physicians for Social Responsibility Popular Resistance Presbyterian Church USA Progressive Democrats of America Public Citizen **Ouaker Earthcare Witness** RootsAction.org School of the Americas Watch Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Sierra Club Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA) Sr. of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership SumOfUs.org Task Force on the Americas The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice The Rachel Carson Council, Inc. Unitarian Universalist Global AIDS Coalition UNITE HERE United Brotherhood of Carpenters United Church of Christ Justice and Witness **Ministries** United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) United Mineworkers of America United Steelworkers United Students Against Sweatshops United Students for Fair Trade Universities Allied for Essential Medicines WarIsACrime.org Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) Women's Voices for the Earth Worldview

## Local, State, and Regional Organizations:

12th Congressional District Chapter of Progressive	Aerospace Machinists Dist Lodge 751
Democrats of America	Africa Connections, First Unitarian Church of
350 Central Maine	Portland, Oregon
350 Maine	AFSCME 2748 Chapter 10
350 CT	AFSCME Council 5
350 Seattle	AFSCME Council 65
7th District West of Illinois Move-On Chapter	AFSCME Local 1542
a2mc (Access to Medicines Coalition)	AFSCME Local 1624
ACC / AFT Local 6249	AFSCME Local 3214
ACLC AFL-CIO	AFSCME Local 3214
Activate CT	AFSCME Local 34

**AFSCME Local 3800** AFSCME Local 4001 **AFSCME Local 668** AFT – Oregon Alliance for Democracy - Oregon Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 American Association of Retirees, a California nonprofit corporation American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3937 American Indian Mothers Inc. American Postal Workers Union, Minneapolis Area Local American Postal Workers Union, St. Paul Area Local Americans for Democratic Action Hawaii Americans for Democratic Action Iowa Americans for Democratic Action of Southeastern Penna. Chapter Americans for Democratic Action Southern California Americans for Democratic Action, Northeast Ohio ATU Local 1091 Austin Central Labor Council Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera Awake Miami BCTGM Local 167G BCTGM Local 267G BCTGM Local 369G Berks Gas Truth **BLET-MNSLB** BlueGreen Alliance, Minnesota Bronx River Bicycle Works Brooklyn For Peace Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Washington State Legislative Board Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Massachusetts State Legislative Board California Farmers Union Carpenters Local Union 1209 Carpenters Local Union 223 Carpenters Local Union 318 Carpenters Local Union 318 Carpenters Local Union 322 Carpenters Local Union 345 Carpenters Local Union 361 Carpenters Local Union 50 Carpenters Local Union 74 Cascade AIDS Project Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy Cement Masons and Plasters Local 633 Center for Family Farm Development, Inc.

Central Co-op Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) CFTC – CT Fair Trade Coalition Chester County Council AFL-CIO Chicago Democratic Socialists of America Chicago Fair Trade Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America Church Council of Greater Seattle Citizens' Environmental Coalition Cleveland Jobs with Justice Climate Action Business Association Cloutman & Cloutman, LLP Coastal Bend Labor Council, AFL-CIO Colorado State Legisaltive Board BLE & T Columbia Pacific Alliance for Social Justice Communications Workers of America District 7 Communications Workers of America State Council Community Action for Justice in the Americas, Africa and Asia (CAJA-3) Community Alliance for Global Justice Community Alliance of Lane County Community to Community Development Concerned Families of Westchester Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes **Connecticut Justice Party** Connecticut State Council of Machinists Construction & General Laborers Local 154 Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers CWA District 2-13 CWA District 6 CWA Local 1111 CWA Local 6132 CWA Local 6215 CWA Local 6222 CWA Local 7777 CWA Local 7901 Dakota Resource Council (ND) Dakota Rural Action (SD) Dallas AFL-CIO Dallas Building Trades Council, AFL-CIO Delaware Riverkeeper Network Democracy in Action Chicago Denver Justice & Peace Committee **Divas Fair Trade** DownRiver Alliance **DSA** Austin East Central Area Labor Council Eastern Michigan Federation of Teachers Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM

Economic Justice Action Group of First Unitarian Church Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC El Paso Building & Construction Trades Council Elevator Constructors Local 21 **Elevator Constructors Local 9 Empire State Consumer Project** Esperanza Peace & Justice Center Fairmont, MN Peace Group Faith Action Network Farms Not Arms Farmworker Association of Florida Fernandez Ranch Florida AFL-CIO Florida Alliance for Retired Americans Food for Maine's Future Fort Worth MoveOn Council Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR) Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice Frack Free Illinois GCC / IBT Local 4535M General Teamsters Local 326 GMO Free Florida Grand Rapids CAT Team Grassroots Coalition Greater Danbury MoveOn.Org Council Green Ministry Team First Presbyterian Church Bend, OR. Harris County AFL-CIO Council HartBeat Ensemble Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Houston Federation of Teachers Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council IAMAW Airline Local 1833 IAMAW Capitol City and Minneapolis Metal Workers Lodge 459 **IAMAW** District 165 IAMAW Local Lodge 1037 IAMAW Local Lodge 112 IAMAW Local Lodge 126 IAMAW Local Lodge 1956 IAMAW Local Lodge 2198 IAMAW Local Lodge 623 IAMAW Local Lodge 737 IAMAW Local Lodge 1005 IAMAW Minnesota State Council **IBEW 3rd District IBEW Local 1253 IBEW Local 160** 

**IBEW Local 242 IBEW Local 278 IBEW Local 294 IBEW Local 31 IBEW Local 46 IBEW Local 520 IBEW Local 66 IBEW** Local 716 IBT - Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen - Texas State Legislative Board Illinois Stewardship Alliance Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming Insulators LU 22 International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 1175 International Union of Operating Engineers Local 286 Iron Workers Local Union #482 Ironworkers Local 263 Iroquois Valley Farms, LLC IUE-CWA Local 1140 JOBS NOW Coalition Jobs with Justice of South Sound Joint Council of Teamsters No.37 Jubilee Oregon Kitsap Central Labor Council KKI Label GMOs.org Laborers District Council of MN & ND Land Stewardship Project LCLAA Gulf Coast Chapter League of Rural Voters Lehigh Valley Gas Truth Lehigh Valley Group, Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club Lubbock Central Labor Council Maine Fair Trade Campaign Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association Maine People's Alliance MaineXChange MAPE Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas Marion Polk Move to Amend Maryland United for Peace and Justice Mata Traders Mid-South Carpenters Regional Council Millwrights Local 548 Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation Minnesota AFL-CIO Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Industrial Union Council Minnesota Nurses Association Minnesota Public Interest Research Group Minnesota State Council of Machinists IAM&AW Minnesota Teamsters Joint Council 32 Missouri ProVote Missouri Rural Crisis Center Montanans Against the TPP MoveOn Desert Council MoveOn Los Angeles Council MoveOn Metro Denver Council MoveOn.org/PDX Nat'l Assn of Letter Carriers, Branch 9 NC State AFL-CIO NEOGAP (Network for Oil and Gas Accountability and Protection) NH Right To Know GMO North American Intertribal Missions North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters North East Area Labor Council North Texas Jobs with Justice Northeastern Illinois Chapter, Americans for **Democratic Action** Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice Northern Plains Resource Council (MT) NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO NY4WHALES NYC Friends of Clearwater Occupy Bellingham Occupy Coachella Valley Occupy Fort Stockton Occupy Naperville Ocean Spirit Massage Ohio Fair Trade Campaign **Olympic Climate Action OPEIU Local 12** Oregon AFL-CIO **Oregon AFSCME Council 75** Oregon Fair Trade Campaign Oregon Machinist Council **Oregon Progressive Party** Oregon Rural Action Oregon Steelworkers Organization of Staff Analysts PA Conference of Teamsters PA Fair Trade Coalition PDA Desert Chapter Peace Action Bay Ridge Interfaith Peace Action, Maine Chapter Peace House PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick, Maine

People For Positive Action of Plattsburgh, NY Pennsylvania Council of Churches Pierce County Central Labor Council Pipefitters Local Union 211 Pittsburgh LCLAA Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 142 Plumbers Local 68 Portland Central America Solidarity Committee Portland Healthcare Action Group Portland Jobs with Justice Powder River Basin Resource Council Presbytery of the Twin Cities Progressive Democrats of America – Illinois Progressive Democrats of America-Tucson Chapter Protect Biodiversity in Public Forests Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action Regla de Oro **RLM** Arts San Antonio AFL-CIO San Antonio Labor Council for Latin American Advancement San Diego Maquiladora Workers Solidarity Network (SDMWSN) Sane Energy Project Seattle CISPES Seattle Education Association SEIU / NCFO Chapter 1016 Local 32BJ SEIU 503, OPEU SEIU Local 63 SEIU MN State Council Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union #54 Sierra Club – Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club – Oregon Chapter Sierra Club Lehigh Valley (PA) Sierra Club North Star Chapter Sierra Club, Maine Chapter Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio, TX SMART Local 565 South Florida LCLAA South Florida Voices for Working Families South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign South Suburban Council MoveOn.org Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council Southeast MN Alliance of Peacemakers Southern Oregon Climate Action Now Southwest Ohio Green PAC St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America St. Paul Regional Labor Federation Steelworkers Local 9528 CTAPE

Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts Take Back America for the People Tarrant County CLC, AFL-CIO **Teamsters Joint Council 10** Teamsters Joint Council 13 Teamsters Joint Council 16 **Teamsters Joint Council 25** Teamsters Joint Council 28 Teamsters Joint Council 3 **Teamsters Joint Council 37 Teamsters Joint Council 39 Teamsters Joint Council 42 Teamsters Joint Council 55 Teamsters Joint Council 56 Teamsters Joint Council 58** Teamsters Joint Council 7 **Teamsters Joint Council 73** Teamsters Joint Council 80 **Teamsters Joint Council 80** Teamsters Local 100 Teamsters Local 102 Teamsters Local 102 Teamsters Local 117 Teamsters Local 118 Teamsters Local 1199 Teamsters Local 150 Teamsters Local 170 Teamsters Local 179 Teamsters Local 190 Teamsters Local 2011 **Teamsters Local 245 Teamsters Local 26 Teamsters Local 29 Teamsters Local 294 Teamsters Local 317 Teamsters Local 317 Teamsters Local 324 Teamsters Local 325 Teamsters Local 325 Teamsters Local 344 Teamsters Local 38** Teamsters Local 414 **Teamsters Local 455** Teamsters Local 480 **Teamsters Local 495 Teamsters Local 522 Teamsters Local 572 Teamsters Local 577 Teamsters Local 585** Teamsters Local 618 Teamsters Local 623

Teamsters Local 631 Teamsters Local 637 **Teamsters Local 653 Teamsters Local 657 Teamsters Local 662 Teamsters Local 673** Teamsters Local 697 **Teamsters Local 703** Teamsters Local 716 **Teamsters Local 745** Teamsters Local 752 **Teamsters Local 769 Teamsters Local 777 Teamsters Local 79 Teamsters Local 830 Teamsters Local 838 Teamsters Local 890 Teamsters Local 988 Teamsters Local 988** Teamsters Local 997 **Teamsters Local 997** Texas AFL CIO Texas Alliance for Retired Americans **Texas American Federation of Teachers Texas Fair Trade Coalition Texas NAACP** Texas State Association of Electrical Workers **Texas State Building Trades Council** Texas State Council of Machinists Texas Young Active Labor Leaders The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester **Traditions Fair Trade Truck Drivers Local 449 UE Western Region UFCW 555** UFCW Local 21 Union House **UNITE HERE Minnesota** United Association Local 529 United Auto Workers Local 2125 United Auto Workers Local 879 United Auto Workers Local 958 United Auto Workers Minnesota State CAP Council United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1189 United Transportation Union, MN Legislative Council University of MN Labor Education Service **USW District 10 USW District 11** USW District 13 USW Local 1016 USW Local 11-75

USW Local 1188 USW Local 1219 USW Local 12698 USW Local 13-227 USW Local 1329 USW Local 13-620 USW Local 1408 USW Local 1408 USW Local 2002 USW Local 264 USW Local 2660 USW Local 364 USW Local 3657 USW Local 404 USW Local 5652 USW Local 6115 USW Local 7263 USW Local 7687 USW Local 8183 USW Local 9402 USW Women of Steel WA 28th Legislative Democrats Washington Fair Trade Coalition Washington State Democrats Washington State Labor Council Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders WashTech West Area Labor Council West Texas Building & Construction Trades Council Western Colorado Congress Western Mass. Jobs with Justice Western New York Area Labor Federation Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO Central Labor Council Whatever It Takes For Progress Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition Witness for Peace – Upper Midwest Women Occupy San Diego Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Maine Chapter Young Active Labor Leaders, Texas AFL-CIO