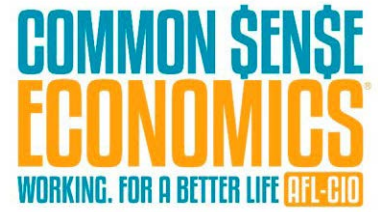




TPP TALKING POINTS – JANUARY 2016



- The debate on trade represents a transcendent movement happening across America. A broad coalition has truly turned a corner and we are driving the debate. If a trade agreement doesn't meet the needs of working people, will defeat it.
- Even as the Trans-Pacific Partnership was negotiated in secret, working people sparked a critical debate and exposed the most important issues. We now know why TPP negotiators were trying so hard to hide the details.
- We know the TPP was negotiated by corporations and for corporations at the expense of working people and our democracy.
- We know the TPP allows currency-manipulating countries to kill U.S. jobs.
- We know the TPP lets foreign corporations bypass U.S. law.
- We know the TPP doesn't strengthen international labor rights protections.
- We know the TPP takes America out of "Buy American."
- We know the TPP could allow public services to be permanently outsourced.
- We know that the TPP's weak rules of origin benefit China and other non-TPP countries.
- We are deeply disappointed that the opportunities to put workers' interests first and eliminate corporate entitlements were largely ignored.
- Don't let anyone tell you the labor movement is opposed to trade agreements. The labor movement is opposed to **bad** trade agreements that hurt workers and society at large.
- Our trade agreements should advance an economy that creates good jobs in America, and that enables regular working people to succeed by working hard to get ahead. The TPP fails this goal.
- The TPP is the latest example of a failed approach to trade, starting with NAFTA, which drives down wages and creates special rights for corporations.
- Passage of the TPP means lost jobs and lowers wages. That's why we will work to defeat it.
- Trade policy has not worked for working people nor for our country as a whole. This broad coalition stands here today to put an end to bad trade deals. It's time to make trade work for working Americans and not just the top 1 percent.

POLICY MESSAGES:

- The TPP is an outsourcing deal—not a trade deal. The auto rules of origin are so low that a car or truck could be majority "Made in China" and still qualify for TPP tariff benefits! And the 45% nominal TPP car and truck content requirement has huge loopholes such as lower content

requirements for certain important car parts.

- The lack of any enforceable currency manipulation rules in the TPP mean that any positive export that U.S. firms and their workers might see could be erased overnight. The side agreement is unenforceable window dressing designed to secure votes but not to protect U.S. workers.
- We continue to hear that the TPP will help bolster the US economy against competition from China—it won't. The TPP's lack of rules against currency manipulation and weak rules of origin mean that China can benefit from the TPP without ever joining or changing its ways.
- Already powerful global firms will have even more leverage to fight responsible labor, environment and consumer protection laws through ISDS's "corporate courts."
- Popular "Buy American" purchasing rules will be watered down, requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of State and even the Department of Homeland Security to treat bidders from every TPP country as if they were U.S. bidders for many purchasing decisions. This will send more jobs overseas.
- Any meaningful climate change measures the U.S. adopts in bi-lateral agreements (like the recent U.S.-China deal) could be wiped out because the TPP doesn't require the other parties to meet U.S. standards or pay fees at the border to adjust the cost of carbon intensive goods. To avoid U.S. climate commitments, some companies may decide to move jobs offshore—threatening our jobs as well as our planet.
- The TPP lowers U.S. tariffs to zero, giving our competitors unfettered access to the U.S. market while some other countries like Vietnam are allowed dramatically longer periods of time to open their markets. This provides further incentives for U.S. companies to outsource production and offshore jobs.
- Existing trade policy already costs the average U.S. worker \$1800 a year according to the Economic Policy Institute, and preliminary studies on the TPP by CEPR and Tufts indicate that we can expect that figure to get worse.
- The labor provisions in the TPP and its side deals could have been useful tools in counteracting the race to the bottom driven by existing rules. But the TPP includes nations with egregious labor and human rights records, and instead of taking the opportunity to refashion failed rules, the TPP's authors chose to repeat rules that are inadequate to the monumental task at hand.
- Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam America agree: the TPP contains extreme monopoly protections for name-brand pharmaceuticals that threaten to restrict access to lifesaving medicines in all TPP countries, including in the US.
- One usually overlooked impact of trade and globalization deals is the impact on communities, and on the public good. When manufacturing centers shut down, the multiplier effect of manufacturing disappears as well. Those who provided services to the factories themselves, or to the factories' employees, often also go out of business. Revenue from income, sales, and property taxes and business licenses go down, reducing the ability of the public sector to provide services, often at the exact time those services are most needed, leaving many communities economically devastated.