

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2015

Chairman Paul Ryan
Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan,

Last Wednesday, President Obama said that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) could be amended after its adoption to add China to the agreement, raising new questions about the powers Congress is ceding to the executive through fast-track approval.

As a result, we believe it is essential before any vote on TPA that the White House provide for full and complete public viewing of the TPP and summary documents explaining how the “living agreement” provision of the TPP will operate as well as all powers and authorities delegated to the “Trans-Pacific Partnership Commission” (Commission) that will be created by the TPP.

Specifically, we ask how the Commission will operate and what powers the Commission will have to make decisions relating to the following policy areas:

1. What vote threshold will the Commission operate on?
2. Is the Commission empowered to set its own rules and procedures for decision-making?
3. What are the areas of jurisdiction that fall under the Commission’s authority? Specifically, to what degree will the Commission have authority over setting environmental regulation, labor policy, trade regulations, and immigration policy?
4. Which of the Commission’s decisions, if any, will have to be brought before Congress for approval, and if so, what is the protocol?
5. Will member countries in the Commission have standing to sue the U.S. in international court for changes it either does or does not make to U.S. law or policy?

Certainly, these are not the only issues related to ceding fast-track authority to the President, and this is in no way an exhaustive list of concerns about the fast track, the TPP, or any other agreements (such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or the Trade in Services Agreement) that would be expedited under fast-track’s guarantee of no amendments, severely constrained debate, and the lowest possible vote thresholds (including the elimination of treaty powers). However, at a minimum, given the threats to Congressional power that have accrued in recent years and the loss of U.S. sovereignty, the House should in no way consider a further

reduction in Congressional power and U.S. sovereignty until these materials have been made public and these questions have been answered in full. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

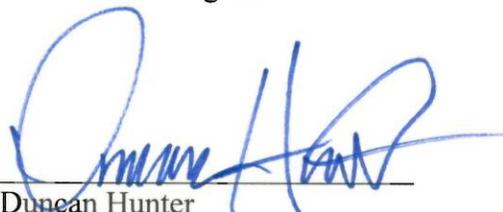
Sincerely,



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



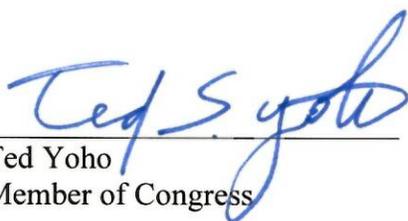
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



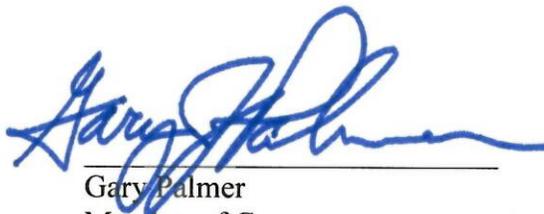
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho
Member of Congress



Gary Palmer
Member of Congress