

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

May 13, 2015

Senator Tammy Baldwin
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Mark Pocan
313 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Ron Kind
1502 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Gwen Moore
2245 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. James Sensenbrenner
2449 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Glenn Grothman
501 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Sean Duffy
1208 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Reid Ribble
1513 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Oppose Fast Track Authority and the Trans Pacific Partnership

Dear Senators Baldwin and Johnson and Representatives Ryan, Pocan, Kind, Moore, Sensenbrenner, Grothman, Duffy, and Ribble,

On behalf of working families all across Wisconsin, we urge you to oppose Fast Track Authority legislation (S. 995 and H.R. 1890).

Unfortunately, using Fast Track Authority to pass trade deals is not new and neither are its results. The bills before the Congress would give the executive branch the opportunity to secretly negotiate as many trade deals as it can through June 30, 2018. Congress, when presented with the final trade deal, could only vote yes or no on the deal within 90 days and debate would be strictly limited. In addition, Congress could not amend the agreement or send the agreement to the executive branch with instructions for improvement. The 2015 Fast Track legislation would provide some parameters for the

deal, but those parameters do not address the U.S. trade imbalance that kills American jobs, protect "Buy American" laws, ensure labor standards, allow for environmental protections, etc.

To be sure, Wisconsin's middle class would benefit from responsible trade deals that seek to expand our exports and protect our labor and environmental standards. However, irresponsible trade deals that exacerbate our trade imbalance result in more imports, less American- and Wisconsin-made goods, less jobs, and stagnating wages. For example, since NAFTA took effect Jan. 1, 1994, the U.S. Department of Labor has certified that Wisconsin lost 76,940 jobs from either direct offshoring or displacement by imports. Wisconsin cannot afford to lose one more job. Wisconsin ranked 40th in the nation in private-sector job growth from September 2013 to September 2014, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For the past four years, we have been dead last or next-to-dead-last in the Midwest for job growth.

Wisconsin needs more jobs, not less. Wisconsin needs better wages and labor standards, not worse. Above all, Wisconsin needs your leadership to oppose Fast Track Authority and the TPP.

Should the Fast Track Authority pass Congress, it would essentially guarantee the passage of the Trans Pacific Partnership treaty (TPP). As you are well-aware, the TPP has been secretly negotiated by trade officials and corporate interests from the U.S. and 11 pacific-rim countries. It's impossible for us to spell out what's in the agreement, since the terms have not been released to the public. While we don't know what's in the TPP, we can safely assume what's *not* in the TPP: protection of "Buy American" provisions, labor standards, enforcement of currency manipulation, access to affordable medicines and healthcare, etc. These policy items are of vital importance to Wisconsin's middle class and deserve more than a swift debate and up or down vote.

Wisconsin's working families cannot afford more trade policy made for and by global corporations and economic elites. This type of trade policy does nothing for Wisconsin's businesses and workers.

We, Wisconsin State Senators, represent hard-working men and women and it is on their behalf that we urge you to vote no on S. 955 and H.R. 1890.

Sincerely,



ROBERT W. WIRTH
State Senator
22nd District



CHRIS LARSON
State Senator
7th District



DAVE HANSEN
State Senator
30th District



JANIS RINGHAND
State Senator
15th Senate District



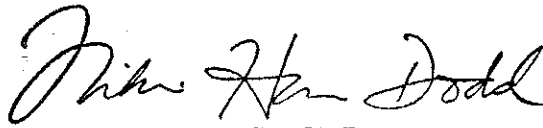
TIM CARPENTER
State Senator
3rd District



JON ERPENBACH
State Senator
27th District



MARK MILLER
State Senator
16th Senate District



NIKIYA HARRIS DODD
State Senator
6th Senate District



LENA TAYLOR
State Senator
4th Senate District