

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

We write to urge you to publicly release several documents from the Labor Advisory Committee on Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy (LAC), dealing with the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), including any documents received from the LAC or any its members dated April 13, 2015 (whether in modified or unmodified form), any correspondence from LAC members dated September 3, 2014, and any related annexes.

While Congress considers Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), the TPP agreement being negotiated is the largest free trade agreement in history, covering 40 percent of world GDP. With the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) being simultaneously negotiated, that total rises to 60 percent. That makes it all the more important that trade agreements be done right. With such huge implications for the TPP, we feel it is necessary for both Congress and the public to have the opportunity to adequately review concerns and issues raised in the LAC documents. This will help better inform us as we consider TPA and its application to TPP.

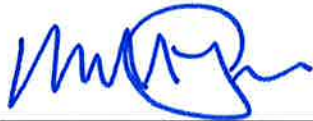
While we understand these materials may be made available to Members of Congress, they would not be available to staff without security clearance, and even those staff would further be restricted from viewing it if not in the presence of their Member. In many instances in the House of Representatives, Members rely on the expert advice of their designated trade staff—who more often than not do not have that clearance. This significantly hampers the ability of Members of Congress to properly and thoroughly analyze important trade documents.

We understand that multilateral negotiations must at times maintain a balance, but also believe the advice provided by the LAC in the requested documents would offer us important insights as to how TPP could affect millions of middle class Americans.

Failure to make this information available publicly prior to a vote on TPA, as was done in the Senate, despite 21 senators requesting it, would interfere with Congress's ability to properly exercise its obligations to oversee foreign commerce.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



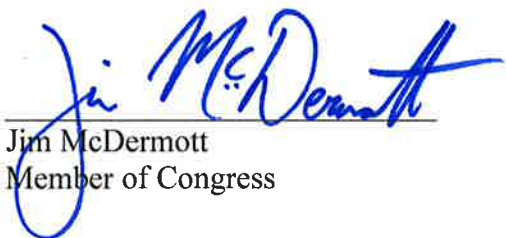
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



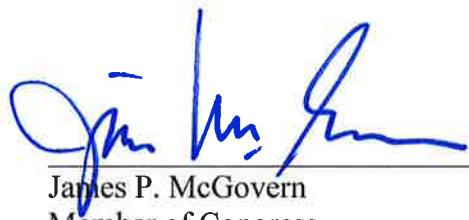
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



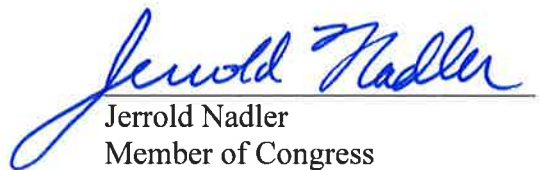
Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



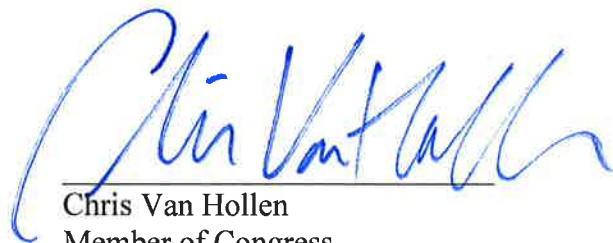
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



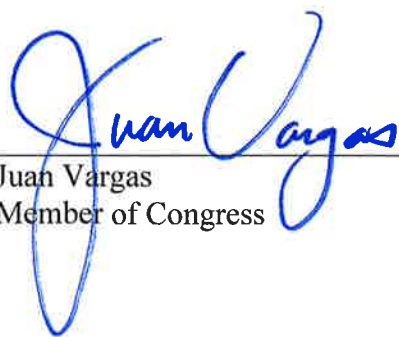
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress