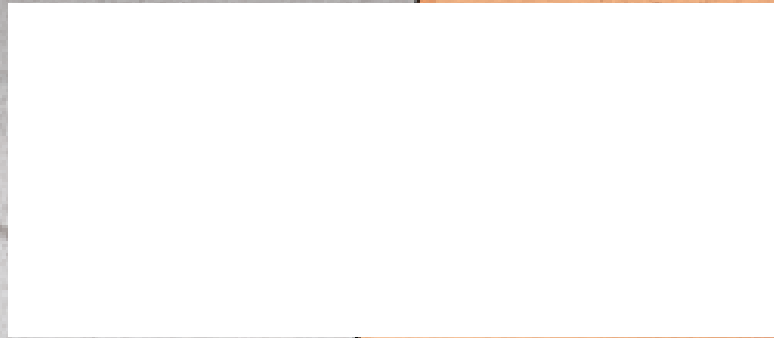


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COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO, CLC
[WWW.CWA-UNION.ORG]

**BAD TRADE
DEALS
CRUSH
GOOD
U.S. JOBS
AND
CONTRACTS**





FAST TRACK FIGHT: IT'S ON

The next few weeks are “do or die” in the fight by CWA and more than 100 other organizations to stop “Fast Track” authorization for the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

It all comes down to this final push to contact our representatives in the House, encouraging them to vote “NO” on Fast Track for the TPP.

Fast Track means members of Congress must vote on the 1,200+ page TPP bill with almost no debate and no ability to amend it.

This is a trade deal that’s being negotiated almost completely in secret, among the U.S. and 11 countries including Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. U.S. workers and communities deserve better than this trade deal that will disrupt communities, push more good jobs overseas and push down wages in the U.S. for any job that can be moved.

There’s a lot that’s wrong with the TPP and those issues are spotlighted in this issue of the News. You also can read more about what CWAers are doing to stop Fast Track now, and how you can join in.

More voices are being raised against the TPP deal. Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich is one of them. He was a supporter of NAFTA, but has come to see trade deals like the TPP for what they are: a giveaway to the 1 percent and multinational corporations at the expense of the rest of us. Read more at the bottom of this page.

One issue that’s finally getting some media scrutiny is the special treatment the TPP trade deal gives to multinational corporations. In 20 years of trade deals, from NAFTA to the U.S.-Korea agreement, the enforcement of workers’ rights, and environmental and safety standards has basically been an afterthought.

That’s definitely not the case for big business. When a multinational corporation wants to enforce its rights under a trade deal, it sues in an international, secret tribunal. That process is called Investor State Dispute Settlement, and right now, there are 500 corporate claims pending under this process, for billions of dollars.

Compare this process to how labor and environmental complaints are handled. These complaints are handled through the U.S. government and drag on endlessly. The U.S. Trade Representative is the enforcer, and at the same time, the negotiator for new deals!

I have been involved in cases in Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala and most recently Honduras. The process takes years. And even when a report is finally written, there’s little likelihood that the issues will be effectively resolved by the violating country. The bottom line: corporations get to sue for billions of dollars in reparations. We get a report.

Nations around the world are dumping ISDS. Let’s put citizen rights on the same level as corporate rights. That’s a good start to the 21st century trade U.S. workers and communities deserve.



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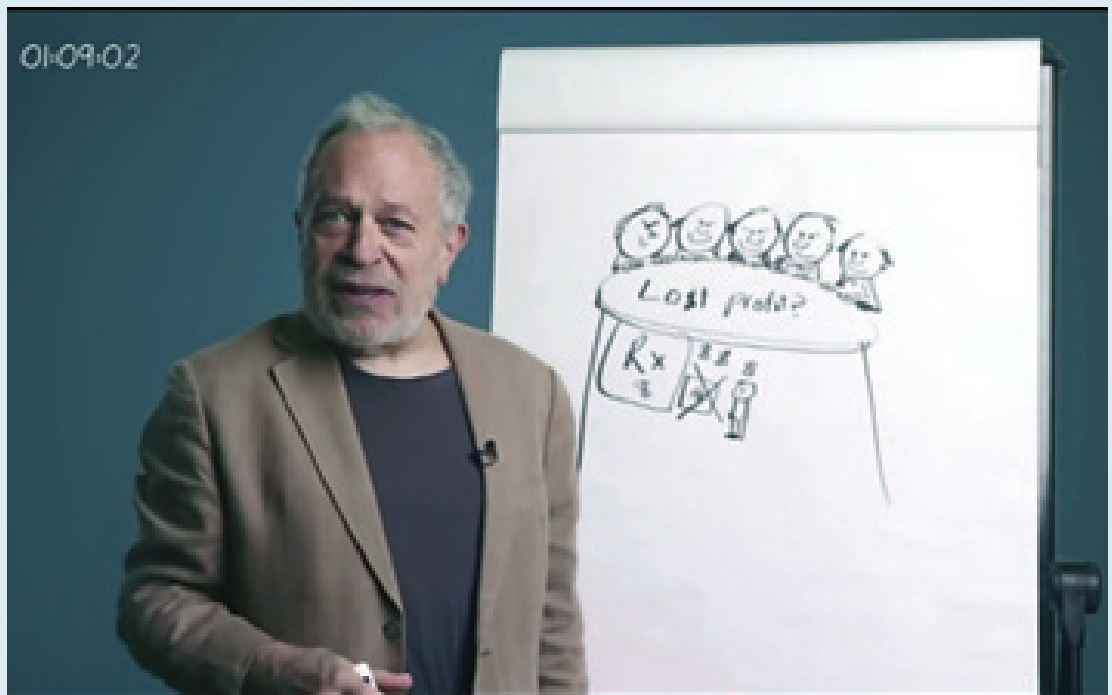
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01-09-02



Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich Takes on the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Robert Reich was a big supporter of NAFTA. Not any more. He acknowledges the damage that trade deals like NAFTA have caused, and is warning against Fast Track Authorization for the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Check out this short video by Reich that shows exactly why this trade deal would devastate U.S. jobs, our contracts, and our communities. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/nlfocxn>.

Then take action.

At www.stopthetpp.org, you’ll find everything you need to send an email to your member of Congress, prepare and mail a handwritten letter and join with other CWA and coalition activists to stand up to this attack on our jobs and our standard of living.

Spread the word about Fast Track and the TPP.

THE FIGHT TO



FAST TRACK AND THE TPP!

FAST TRACK TO NOWHERE

Right now, the House and Senate are considering “Fast Track” legislation for trade deals including the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Fast Track means Congress will have to vote on the 1,200+ page trade deal as written, with almost no debate and no ability to make any changes.

Members of Congress will be voting to give the TPP this expedited approval process without having actually read the TPP agreement!

Can we stop Fast Track? Yes! In 1998, Fast Track was voted down in a bipartisan vote (171 Democrats and 71 Republicans).

About 200 members of the House, both Democrats and Republicans, are opposed to Fast Track. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) is leading the fight in the House, with Reps. Mark Pocan, Louise Slaughter and many others standing tough. In the Senate, Democratic Leader Harry Reid, Sens. Sherrod Brown, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, among others, are in the fight.

Our coalition of 100 groups is working together – union members, people of faith, environmental activists, civil rights and community leaders, women, students and others – to stop Fast Track and TPP.

We can win this.

J O B S

Just three trade agreements – NAFTA, China and Korea, caused a net loss of more than 4 million U.S. jobs. Here’s what we can expect from the TPP.

- ▶ Projected loss of 91,500 U.S. auto jobs to Japan with a reduction of 225,000 automobiles produced in the U.S. [Source: Center for Automotive Research.]
- ▶ Projected loss of 522,000 jobs in the U.S. textile and related sectors to Vietnam over an eight year period. [Source: National Council of Textile Organizations.]
- ▶ Corporations already have offshored an estimated 3.4 million U.S. service jobs, including call center jobs and IT work. The TPP would encourage even more offshoring of service jobs because the TPP would permit any foreign firm to supply services to the U.S. without employing any U.S. workers.
- ▶ Millions of public sector jobs are at risk. The TPP requires that foreign firms operating in the U.S. get equal access to federal and state procurement contracts.

BARGAINING

The TPP would make it even harder to bargain good contracts, because it encourages employers to send our jobs overseas, driving down our wages and benefits and eroding our collective bargaining rights. As U.S. companies send jobs to Vietnam, where the average hourly wage is about \$1, or Malaysia, which relies on slave labor in some industries, those same companies will put pressure on U.S. workers to accept lower wages or face the loss of their jobs altogether.

Jobs Lost 2001-2013 DUE TO NAFTA & CHINA

U.S Total 3,837,200

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Alabama | 53,200 | Illinois | 167,200 | Montana | 4,500 | Rhode Island | 15,300 |
| Alaska | 3,500 | Indiana | 92,200 | Nebraska | 15,400 | South Carolina | 53,300 |
| Arizona | 72,000 | Iowa | 31,100 | Nevada | 18,900 | South Dakota | 6,200 |
| Arkansas | 30,300 | Kansas | 24,200 | New Hampshire | 26,700 | Tennessee | 78,900 |
| California | 650,700 | Kentucky | 53,200 | New Jersey | 108,800 | Texas | 360,300 |
| Colorado | 70,700 | Louisiana | 24,300 | New Mexico | 15,700 | Utah | 32,400 |
| Connecticut | 43,100 | Maine | 13,200 | New York | 213,500 | Vermont | 9,500 |
| Delaware | 6,700 | Maryland | 53,200 | North Carolina | 138,500 | Virginia | 76,600 |
| District Of Columbia | 3,600 | Massachusetts | 114,300 | North Dakota | 3,400 | Washington | 66,700 |
| Florida | 144,500 | Michigan | 123,700 | Ohio | 141,300 | West Virginia | 12,000 |
| Georgia | 120,000 | Minnesota | 97,000 | Oklahoma | 37,200 | Wisconsin | 83,100 |
| Hawaii | 7,300 | Mississippi | 25,500 | Oregon | 71,400 | Wyoming | 2,700 |
| Idaho | 19,100 | Missouri | 56,800 | Pennsylvania | 148,900 | | |

[Source: Economic Policy Institute.]

ENVIRONMENT

The Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the League of Conservation Voters and 41 other environmental groups have called on Congress to oppose Fast Track.

In a letter to Congress, they wrote: “As leading U.S. environmental and science organiza-

tions, we write to express our strong opposition to ‘Fast Track’ trade promotion authority, and to urge you to oppose any legislation that would limit the ability of Congress to ensure that trade pacts deliver benefits for communities, workers, public health, and the environment.”

“The TPP would give big polluters broad new rights to attack climate and clean air and water protection in a secret trade court, forcing our government to pay millions in taxpayer dollars.”

—Sierra Club Executive Director **Michael Brune**



There's so much to see at the new CWA/NETT Academy

Make 2015 the year you start to build a better you. Get the ball rolling by logging on to www.cwanett.org today!



Post this information on union bulletin boards



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| DESCRIPTION | Test your knowledge on a subject or prepare for an exam, we have developed this resource for our members. Participate immediately just by registering. Topics include TKT, TMT, A+, Wireless and more. | Lynda.com is a leading online learning company that helps anyone learn business, software, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals. Through CWA, members have access to the lynda.com video library of engaging, top-quality courses taught by recognized industry experts. | A better way to learn Photoshop®, Lightroom® and Photography®. KelbyOne is more than just training. It's a place where creative people come to learn, grow and inspire. Being a member means you get exclusive access to the world's best instructors, thousands of self-paced classes and an inspiring community of creatives just like you. |
| COST | FREE to members and their families | FREE to members and their families | FREE to members and their families |
| SAMPLE TITLES | TKT, TMT, CCNA, A+, NET+, Security+, Mobility+, and Wireless core knowledge. | MS Office, Photoshop, HTML, 3-D Animation, CAD, Music, IT, Marketing, Developing, & more. Thousands of courses to choose from. | Photoshop, Lightroom, Photography Only. |
| TIME COMMITMENT | 5 - 30 minutes. | From as little as 2 minutes to 15 hours. How much do you want to learn? You are provided access for two weeks per session. | From as little as 2 minutes to 15 hours. How much do you want to learn? You are provided access for two weeks per session. |
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| GET MORE INFORMATION | Just log in at www.cwanett.org, and register for the exam. | Visit www.cwanett.org select RESOURCES. | Visit www.cwanett.org select RESOURCES. |

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Presenting your complete professional training and personal enrichment resource center!

Here, your union provides all the tools necessary to pursue all your ambitions. Maybe you see yourself as a top Network professional in a few years. We have the courses to make that happen. You may have your eye on a pay raise that requires a certification you don't have. Because CWA/NETT is an online Academy, you take the necessary courses on your time, right from home, from professional educators who want you to succeed.

These benefits extend to your family too. And many are FREE! CWA/NETT has several components designed to enrich you and your whole family. Say your son has always wanted to learn more about photography, or your college-age daughter needs to be fluent in Excel. At Lynda.com and KelbyOne they will find dozens of courses that will help them to succeed.

One CWA member needed to learn InDesign for work. She turned to KelbyOne, and learned it in a weekend. Virtually any software program can be mastered through these programs.

Focus on U is an integrated approach to exploring careers and their skill requirements, building workplace skills using KeyTrain®, and creating life-literacy with such skills as financial awareness, communication skills and job searching. It's a powerful way to provide real credentials, and success.

There's just so much more here for you and your family. For complete details, visit cwanett.org, register, then click "RESOURCES" to see what you have been missing.



Focus On U



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Industry Certifications



College Degree

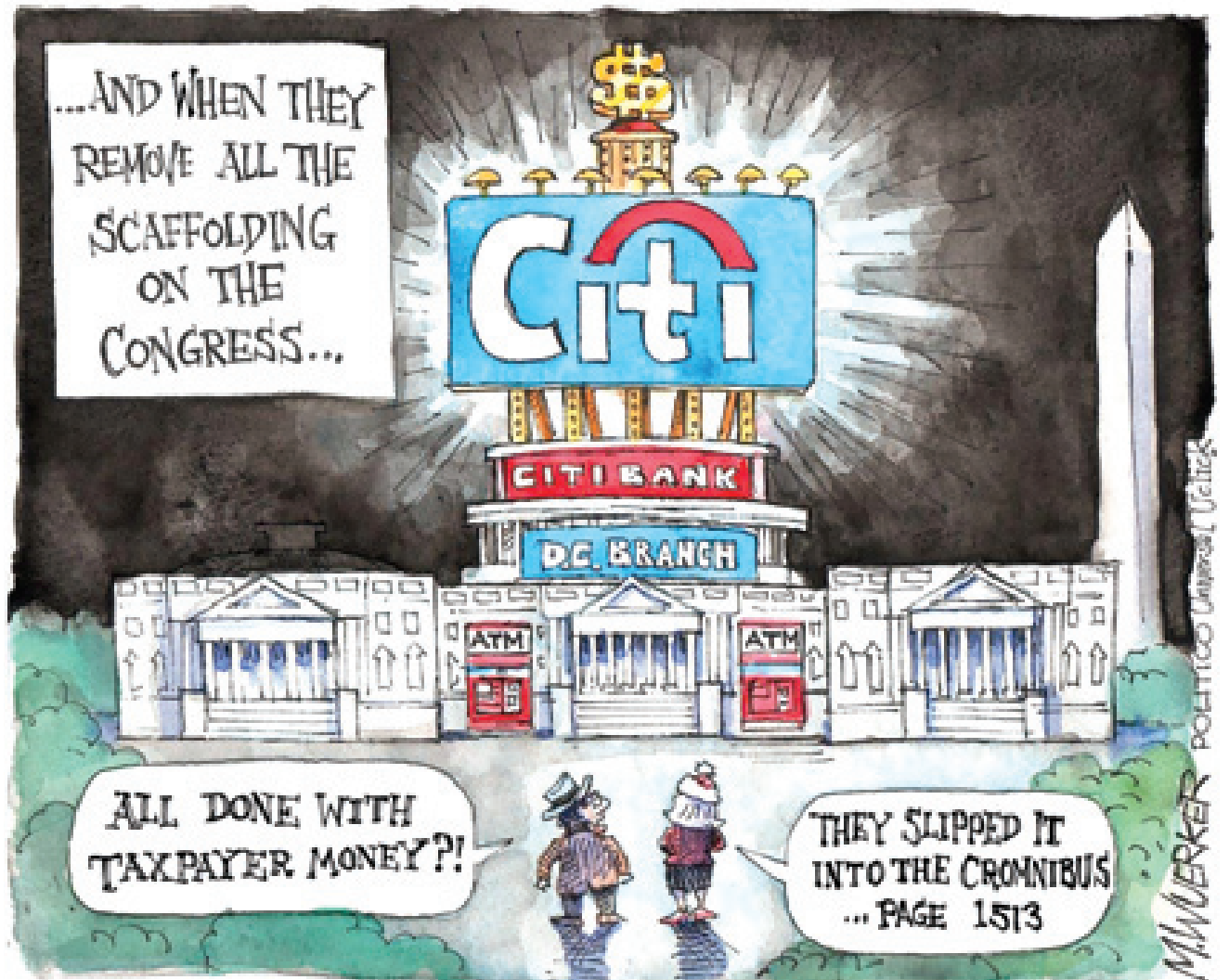
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| <p>Focus On U is a comprehensive program that offers an integrated approach to exploring careers and their skill requirements and builds life-literacy through lessons about financial awareness, job searching, and more. A great resource for you and your family.</p> | <p>Ed2Go offers you hundreds of engaging online courses, covering every topic from Accounting to Web Design. Each course has a patient and caring instructor, lively discussions with your fellow students, and plenty of practical information that you can put to immediate use.</p> | <p>Through bargaining, CWA has made it to where you can get a higher craft job or extra pay by earning a certification. Check your contract for more specific information. There is no better way to prove your knowledge and skills than with an industry recognized certification.</p> | <p>CWA has partnered with Bismarck State College to assist our members with achieving their goal. With three sponsored degrees, members can transfer credits from other colleges, have life experience evaluated for credit, or just provide a great beginning to achieving a degree.</p> |
| <p>FREE to members and their families</p> | <p>\$99-\$150</p> | <p>Avg \$550</p> | <p>Avg \$237 per credit</p> |
| <p>Financial Awareness, Business Writing, Job Search, Business Etiquette, Problem Solving, Communication Skills.</p> | <p>Accounting and Finance, Business, Computer Applications, Design, Healthcare, Medical, Legal, Personal Development, Technology, Writing and More. Thousands of courses to choose from.</p> | <p>CCNA, CCENT, NET+, A+, Security+, VMware, more coming soon!</p> | <p>AS Web Page Development and Design, AS Computer Support Specialist, AS Information Processing Specialist.</p> |
| <p>Each topic is a few hours long on your own schedule. Access is provided for two weeks at a time.</p> | <p>6-week-long courses, 3-4 hours each week on your own schedule.</p> | <p>12-week courses, 4-5 hours each week on your own schedule</p> | <p>Typical college course 16 weeks, 4-5 hours per week on your own schedule.</p> |
| <p>Sessions begin every two weeks. Access to hundreds of titles, just register for the two-week-long session that works best for your schedule. You get unlimited access to all courses during the two week period. Register for another session once completed.</p> | <p>Payment is due at checkout or select THIRD PARTY to allow time to work with our college to arrange payment.</p> | <p>Review the courses available and add to your card and check out. Payment is due at checkout or select THIRD PARTY to allow time to work with our college to arrange payment. Classes begin on the first Tuesday of each month.</p> | <p>Three degrees are spotlighted for CWA members, or look on your own at Bismarck. Begin a degree from scratch or transfer credits or life experiences you may have. Among the best value in the country for an AS Degree.</p> |
| <p>Visit www.cwanett.org select RESOURCES.</p> | <p>Visit www.cwanett.org select CERTIFICATIONS > Explore.</p> | <p>Visit www.cwanett.org select CERTIFICATIONS > Core.</p> | <p>Visit www.cwanett.org select DEGREES.</p> |

\$ Getting \$ BIG MONEY OUT OF OUR POLITICS

Across the country, thousands of CWAers and activists from Common Cause, Public Citizen, environmental and reform groups held actions and events to mark the fifth anniversary of the disastrous Supreme Court *Citizens United* decision.

“Money out, voters in” was the message, and across the country, activists pressed for a small donor financing system, accountability and transparency in political contributions and congressional action to make it clear that money is not speech.

So far, more than 5 million activists signed a petition calling for a constitutional amendment to get money out of politics. The Democracy Initiative – a broad coalition of 50 environmental, community, labor and citizen organizations representing more than 30 million activists – is fighting to restore the political voice of ordinary Americans.



Corporations are taking over our democracy. It's time to stand up and fight back.

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BIG MONEY IN POLITICS GETS Even Bigger

In its *Citizens United* decision in 2010, the Supreme Court affirmed that money equals speech and corporations equal people. That decision, combined with last year's *McCutcheon* decision that allowed virtually unlimited political spending, has enabled a flood of dollars from corporations and the wealthiest Americans to cripple our political process and drown out the voices of ordinary citizens.

Five years ago, Justice Anthony Kennedy assured Americans that disclosure requirements would ensure that “citizens can see whether elected officials are ‘in the pocket’ of so-called moneyed interests.”

No one believes that today. Today, our political process is marked by secret contributions, stealth donations and very little transparency in who is spending these big bucks at the federal, state and community levels.

A record \$4 billion was spent in the 2014 congressional elections.

In 2012, \$7 billion was spent on presidential and congressional elections, a record that likely will be broken, especially with the pledge by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch who said they will spend nearly \$1 billion – \$899 million – in the 2016 elections.

This is not what democracy looks like.

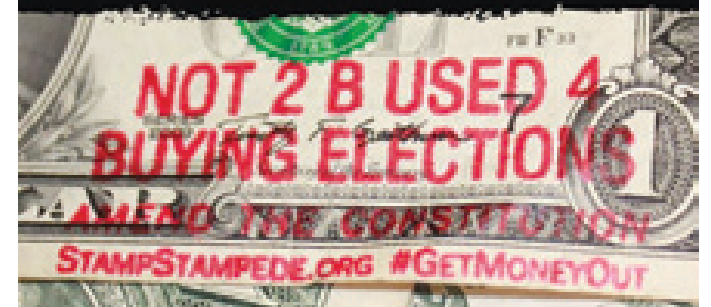
What's the Solution?

- ▶ **Democracy for All.** An amendment to the U.S. Constitution that overturns *Citizens United* and other obstacles to campaign finance reform. Its point is clear: corporations aren't people and money isn't speech.
- ▶ **The DISCLOSE Act** would require disclosure from all groups making political donations.
- ▶ **Legislation to establish a publicly financed, small donor matching system.** New York City and other communities already have adopted this model for elections. It works. Bills already proposed include the Government by the People Act and the Fair Elections Now Act, and the Empowering Citizens Act.
- ▶ **The Sunlight for Unaccountable Nonprofits Act** would require tax-exempt groups to disclose the names of donors who give more than \$5,000.

Since 2010, 16 states and more than 500 local governments have called on Congress to overturn *Citizens United* through ballot initiatives, resolutions or other measures. We're growing stronger every day in the fight to take back our democracy.

WHEN 32 PEOPLE CAN OUTSPEND
3.7 MILLION CITIZENS,
OUR DEMOCRACY IS IN
REAL DANGER

- SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN



It's past time to act to put elections back in the hands of the voters – and get them out of the hands of billionaires and special interests.

—Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM)



Dan Kozak, steward and activist with Local 1120, has been urging co-workers and family members to write letters to their representatives. "I worry about my son and what kind of future he will have," he says.



CWAers and allies from at least 20 organizations hold a town hall meeting near Sacramento, Calif., calling on Reps. Ami Bera and Doris Matsui to vote NO on Fast Track.

FAST TRACK IS THE WRONG TRACK

Across our union, CWA activists and allies are fighting back against "Fast Track" and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We're signing petitions, sending hand-written letters and calling our Members of Congress to make it crystal clear: Fast Track and the TPP are a bad deal for U.S. workers.



IUE-CWAers in Dayton, OH, call their members of Congress and urge them to reject Fast Track Authority for the TPP.



Members of CWA Local 3603 Retired Members Chapter write letters and make phone calls to Rep. Alma Adams, (D-N.C.).



In Boulder, Colo., CWA and coalition activists rally outside the office of Rep. Jared Polis (D).

Notice Regarding Union Security Agreements and Agency Fee Objections

As a general matter, employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement containing a Union security clause are required, as a condition of employment, to pay an agency fee equal to normal Union dues (and, where applicable, initiation fees). While the wording of these clauses is not perfectly uniform, none requires more than the payment of this agency fee to retain employment. The Communications Workers of America policy on agency fee objections is the Union's means of meeting its legal obligations to employees covered by Union security clauses and of effectuating those employees' legal rights as stated in the applicable decisions of the United States Supreme Court (including *Beck v. CWA*) and the companion lower court and labor agency decisions. Under the CWA policy, employees who are not members of the Union, but who pay agency fees pursuant to a Union security clause, may request a reduction in that fee based on their objection to certain kinds of Union expenditures.

The policy provides an objection period each year during May, followed by a reduction in the objector's fee for the twelve months beginning with July and running through June of the following year.

Briefly stated, CWA's objection policy works as follows:

1. The agency fee payable by objectors will be based on the Union's expenditures for those activities or projects "germane to collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance adjustment" within the meaning of applicable United States Supreme Court decisions. Among these "chargeable" expenditures are those going for negotiations

with employers, enforcing collective bargaining agreements, informal meetings with employer representatives, discussion of work-related issues with employees, handling employees' work-related problems through the grievance procedure, administrative agencies, or informal meetings, and Union administration. In the past, approximately 70-75% of the International Union's expenditures have gone for such activities. The percentages of Local Union expenditures on "chargeable" activities have generally been higher.

Among the expenditures treated as "nonchargeable," which objectors will not be required to support, are those going for community service (including participating in charitable events), legislative activity, cost of affiliation with non-CWA organizations, support of political candidates, participating in political events, recruitment of members to the Union, and members-only benefits (including members-only social events). In the past, approximately 25-30% of the International Union's expenditures have gone for such "non-chargeable" expenditures. The percentages of Local Union expenditures on "nonchargeable" activities have generally been lower.

2. Objectors will be given a full explanation of the basis for the reduced fee charged to them. That explanation will include a more detailed list of the categories of expenditures deemed to be "chargeable" and those deemed to be "non-chargeable," and the independent certified public accountants' report showing the Union's expenditures on which the fee is based. In addition to any other avenue of relief available under the law, objectors will have the option of challenging

the Union's calculation of the reduced fee before an impartial arbitrator appointed by the American Arbitration Association, and a portion of the objector's fee shall be held in escrow while he or she pursues that challenge. Details on the method of making such a challenge and the rights accorded to those who do so will be provided to objectors along with the explanation of the fee calculation.

3. Objections for the period of July through June must be sent during May. Objections will be honored for one year unless the objection specifically states that it is continuing in nature. Continuing objections will be honored for as long as the agency fee payer remains in the bargaining unit. Agency fee payers who are new to the bargaining unit, or who are returning to the bargaining unit, may object within thirty days of receiving this notice. In addition, employees who resign Union membership may object within thirty days of becoming an agency fee payer. Employees filing these objections in either circumstance should so state that circumstance in their letter of objection. New bargaining unit members are to receive this notice prior to any demand being made upon them for the payment of agency fees. If, however, for any reason a new unit member begins paying agency fees prior to the receipt of this notice, he or she may object retroactively to the commencement of such payments and for the duration of the current annual objection period.

The letter of objection should include name, address, CWA Local number, and employer. Objections must be sent to the Agency Fee Administrator, CWA, 501 Third Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-2797.

THE FIGHT TO

STOP

FAST TRACK AND THE TPP!



CURRENCY MANIPULATION

'Let's Export Our Products, Not Our Jobs'

Several of the 12 TPP countries – particularly Japan – have engaged in a process called currency manipulation. The short explanation is this: Japan manipulates the value of its currency, the yen, so that Japanese products are less expensive and those of the U.S. are much more expensive. That gives Japan a growing trade surplus. It's a big reason why the U.S. trade deficit with Japan hit \$78.3 billion in 2013.

This manipulation has cost the U.S. 896,600 jobs, directly because of Japan's currency manipulation. The majority of these are manufacturing jobs, especially in the auto industry, but not exclusively. U.S. workers lost more than 400,000 jobs in administrative positions, health care and social assistance, retail trade, professional, scientific, and technical services and hospitality and food services.

Senators, Representatives and allies that oppose Fast Track have been pushing the administration and U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman hard on whether TPP addresses this issue. (It doesn't.) Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) has called for "strong and enforceable rules" in the TPP deal to prevent currency manipulation.

MORE BROKEN PROMISES

The Commerce Department's latest report on the U.S. trade deficit is out. No surprise, the numbers contradict all the promises that supporters of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other trade deals have made over the past 20 years.

BROKEN PROMISE #1 Trade deals with China, Korea, Central American countries and others create jobs.

FALSE. The U.S. has lost 4 million jobs as a result of just three trade deals – China, Korea and NAFTA.

BROKEN PROMISE #2 Trade deals will boost exports and reduce our trade deficits.

FALSE. The deficit hit \$505 billion in 2014, and imports to the U.S. last year were a record \$2.9 trillion. Corporations already are lining up to move jobs to Vietnam, where wages average about \$1 an hour. That will make imports soar even higher.

MEDICINE

Rx

Leaked text – the only way we've learned anything about the negotiations – revealed that the U.S. Trade Representative is pushing for language that would extend the patent monopolies of the big pharmaceutical companies to 12 years or more. This would severely restrict the development and marketing of generic drugs. Prices for critical prescription drugs would rise, profits for Big Pharma would skyrocket and millions of people would have little or no access to affordable medicine.

AARP, Doctors Without Borders, the Generic Pharmaceutical Association, Oxfam and the AFL-CIO warned that this giveaway to the pharmaceutical industry could lock in higher prices for drugs. "Biologic drugs" have been developed to treat diseases like multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer and other conditions. Insulin and vaccines are biologics, too. Giving drug makers 12 years of exclusive rights to the test data for these drugs blocks generics from being developed and keeps them out of the hands of millions of people who could benefit.

Consumers Union and other groups have warned that TPP provisions could undermine Medicare and Medicaid, by blocking cost saving initiatives and drug rebates in those programs.

Pharmaceutical companies claim they need to charge high prices to fund their research and development. This just isn't so. Drug companies spend more on marketing and advertising than on new ideas.

—Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in Economics, Columbia University



TAKE ACTION NOW!

This is it. Time to stand up and fight back. Join other CWAers who are emailing, calling and writing their Members of Congress with this message:

Say "No" to Fast Track and the TPP.

WWW.STOPHETPP.ORG
has all the information you need.