

Committee on Financial Services
Ranking Democratic Member,
Subcommittee on Oversight
& Investigations

Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure

Democratic Steering & Policy
Committee

Democratic Caucus
Chair, Committee on Oversight,
Study & Review

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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October 28, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you today to express my grave concern with regard to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement negotiations, and the lack of congressional input in key areas of the proposed accord. Particularly, I am alarmed at the prospect of “Fast Track” Trade Promotion Authority conceding Congress’s constitutional responsibility over trade policy to the Executive Branch.

As you know, the TPP Free Trade Agreement would obligate the United States to participate in policy changes ranging from labor and the environment to healthcare and financial services. Congress must be given the opportunity to exercise its constitutional authority to help shape the terms in this agreement through vigorous examination and debate. In the final analysis, “Fast Track” Trade Promotion Authority prohibits Congress from providing key input that would protect the many sectors of our economy that could be adversely affected by the TPP. I believe this proposal must be reconsidered.

It is my hope that I can work with my colleagues and your administration to re-engage Congress in the U.S. trade agreement process. Together, we can work towards equitable terms in these agreements that will protect American jobs, the environment, and preserve our competitiveness globally, thus enhancing our overall economic recovery and growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael E. Capuano".

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

