



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

May 11, 2015

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

**Oppose Fast Track:**

**The 850,000 men and women represented by the United Steelworkers union (USW) strongly oppose the Hatch-Ryan-Wyden Fast Track legislation, and urge you to vote in opposition to the bill.** For too long our union has fought aggressively to defend domestic jobs and reverse the crippling economic effect left from decades of trade imbalances. This Fast Track legislation will only hasten the process of lost manufacturing jobs and further increase economic inequality in our nation.

The latest version of Fast Track mirrors previous versions of the legislation, which brought trade agreements that have cost the U.S. millions of jobs. The minor adjustments made to the legislation do not seriously account for the legitimate proposals offered by unions and community allies to address the worst issues in our trade policy. Below are just some items not adequately addressed in Hatch-Ryan-Wyden bill:

- It fails to require that Congressional trade objectives be met for fast track to apply;
- It fails to create negotiating objectives that are specific to the trading partners involved and advance a trade model that provides balanced, inclusive benefits that will assist the middle class;
- It fails to ensure Congressional approval of trade agreement partners before negotiations begin;
- It fails to address Currency Manipulation as an enforceable negotiating objective;
- It fails to significantly increase access to U.S. trade policy making, trade proposals, and negotiating text for Congress, Congressional staff, and the public;

As a union that fights unfair foreign trade advantages every day, it is critical that we address how our country approaches trade and how our trading partners influence their market and ours. Fast Track fails to adequately address these critical issues and looking ahead we have serious concerns about the multi-lateral trade agreements currently in negotiation and grandfathered into Fast Track. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), in negotiations for the last five years, may not meet the

unenforceable negotiating objectives in Hatch-Ryan-Wyden. For example, countries in the TPP, like Malaysia, cannot meet the human trafficking language included in the legislation.

USW members and working families deserve a trade agenda that reverses our ballooning trade deficits, and addresses the significant economic inequality growing in our country. We strongly urge you to vote NO on Fast Track.

**Support the Trade Law Enforcement Package along with other Critical Provisions:**

**Customs reauthorization, trade facilitation and trade enforcement, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), and legislation to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), and the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti.**

Our union urges the Senate to consider reauthorizing and move forward with legislation to improve trade law enforcement, TAA and developing country trade facilitation. These legislative proposals are necessary in efforts to reduce global poverty and to better defend U.S. workers against unfair trade practices.

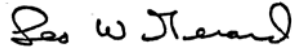
The trade law enforcement package, included in the Chairman's mark and passed by the Senate Finance Committee, contains important reforms to our Anti-dumping (AD) and Countervailing (CVD) duty laws. In addition, USW strongly supports the inclusion of Currency Manipulation language in the legislation. Explicit and enforceable currency language is necessary to ensure that foreign competitors don't use their exchange rates to subsidize their exports at the expense of products made by American workers. Provisions to better assist the Department of Commerce conduct investigations in an efficient and cost effective manner are also critical to leveling the playing field for U.S. companies and workers who fight unfair trade practices.

TAA is an important program which assists workers who have lost and continue to lose their jobs to unfair trade, retrain and retool. These workers would have preferred that U.S. negotiators not trade away their jobs, but the opportunities provided by the program are owed to those in need. USW strongly urges that government workers be included in the program and that the TAA pay-for not be a provision that undermines Medicare. Workers continue to lose their jobs to unfair trade and TAA should be reauthorized separate from any Fast Track legislation or a new trade agreement.

USW encourages the passage of AGOA, GSP and preferential trade treatment for Haiti. While AGOA has produced limited effects in growth in Africa, the program should be part of an overall plan in facilitating a pro-growth agenda in Africa. U.S. manufacturers with the right tools could provide substantial support in building necessary water and power infrastructure if we better aligned our trade policies to reflect sustainable development in regions needing assistance.

These programs and trade policies are critical and important to helping workers, companies and countries grow, develop and look forward to the twenty-first century. USW believes these legislative proposals should move forward while leaving behind old trade models such as Fast Track.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

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