**TPP Packet for UFCW Locals
\*Please Note: These materials should be embargoed until the week of April 13th\***

**SAMPLE BLOG POST OR E-MAIL:**

[***Call Your Elected Officials Today! Help Fight for Good Jobs – Tell Them to Vote ‘No’ on Fast Track.***](http://voiceactivated.ufcw.org/page/speakout/no-fast-track)

America’s workers and hard-working families need your help, and the time to act is now!

As you may know, the U.S. House and Senate will soon consider Fast Track legislation to help pass another bad trade deal. As history shows, fast track has been used to quickly pass some of our nation’s worst trade agreements. This time will no different.

If fast track passes, we will face another terrible trade deal, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), which will all but guarantee that more families will suffer, more jobs will be lost, and more of our communities will be devastated.

[***Contact your elected officials today. Tell them to vote ‘NO’ on Fast Track***](http://voiceactivated.ufcw.org/page/speakout/no-fast-track)

Unfortunately, President Obama, and certain Republican and Democratic Members of Congress, support fast track authority and TPP. They are choosing to ignore the severe price our workers and families will pay if fast track and TPP passes

We all know the reality of past trade deals. Bad trade deals, like TPP, don’t care whether you are Republican or Democrat. They devastate workers from every party and every state.

The simple truth is that opposing TPP is not about partisan politics, it’s about supporting our jobs, our workers, and our families.

So we all have a choice – stay silent or speak out. It’s time for you, your friends, and your family to stand up and speak out to help stop this bad trade deal.

[***Please don’t wait—call your member of Congress today and tell them to vote ‘NO’ on Fast Track***](http://voiceactivated.ufcw.org/page/speakout/no-fast-track)

How bad of a deal is the TPP?

The TPP trade deal has been put together in secret. Hundreds of corporate lawyers and other special interest groups have been advising the U.S. Trade Representative, but the voices of hard-working families have been left out.

No elected official, regardless of political party, who is truly interested in making the economy better and fairer, can responsibly support the TPP.

Now, more than ever, we need you to speak out and help us stop Fast Track and TPP.

Please reach out to your Members of Congress today, because together we can build an America that works for our workers and our families.

**SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS (CAN BE PAIRED WITH GRAPHICS):**

-Help us defeat fast track and the TPP--the proposed trade agreement that will hurt working and middle class families. Call your Members of Congress today and tell them to say NO to fast track! http://voiceactivated.ufcw.org/page/speakout/no-fast-track

-Why are Republicans, Democrats, and President Obama supporting a trade deal that will hurt our workers and families? Don’t let the fast-tracking of TPP lead to more job losses. Call your Members of Congress today, and tell them to oppose fast track! http://voiceactivated.ufcw.org/page/speakout/no-fast-track

- The TPP rolls back consumer, environmental, and labor regulations that protect every worker and every family. It’s time for our elected representatives to do what’s right for working class Americans and our economy. Tell your Member of Congress to oppose the fast-tracking of the TPP. http://voiceactivated.ufcw.org/page/speakout/no-fast-track

- Why isn’t President Obama listening to the voices of hard-working families from both the left and right? Make your voice heard by calling your Member of Congress and telling them that the TPP is a bad deal for every working American. http://voiceactivated.ufcw.org/page/speakout/no-fast-track

-The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is the largest--and worst--trade deal you've never heard of and both Republicans and Democrats want to "fast track" its passage. Here’s Robert Reich to explain why that’s a problem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3O_Sbbeqfdw&feature=youtu.be>

**SAMPLE TWEETS (CAN BE PAIRED WITH GRAPHICS):**

- Do you like Good jobs? Fair wages? Workplace safety? Unfair trade agreements threaten them all. Help stop Fast Track and TPP. <http://ow.ly/L1YZY>

- On behalf of the 1.3 million hard-working members of the UFCW, we are calling on every member of Congress to oppose fast track of the TPP <http://bit.ly/badtrade>

- No elected official, Dem or GOP, who is truly interested in making the economy better and fairer, can responsibly support the #TPP! <http://bit.ly/badtrade>

- We join w/ the @AFLCIO & others who refuse 2 spprt any mmbr of Congress who dcides 2 put self-interests above hard-working fams #NoFastTrack

-Let's not repeat history. The #TPP is just like past trade deals, which resulted in net job losses. Tell your Congressperson #NoFastTrack <http://bit.ly/badtrade>

- We will be watching whether or not our elected representatives do what is right for our families. #NoFastTrack <http://bit.ly/badtrade>

- It’s time for some bipartisan opposition! Stop the #TPP—another bad trade deal for America’s workers. <http://bit.ly/badtrade>

-Here's Robert Reich to explain why fast track for the TPP is a truly terrible idea, and why Congress should oppose it: <http://ow.ly/LfNf0>

**OP-ED TEMPLATE FOR UFCW LOCALS REGARDING TPP:**

Over the last 30 years, in large part because of unfair trade deals, American workers and families have endured job losses, stagnant wages, and skyrocketing levels of income inequality.

Given those facts, it is inexplicable why any politician in **(insert state)** could support the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) or “fast track” legislation that makes this unfair trade deal possible.

As President of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local **(insert number)**, I stand with hard-working families all across **(insert state)** who are fighting to achieve a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

Unfortunately, some Republican and Democratic Members of Congress, as well as President Obama, have chosen to support a fast track trade deal that will generally make life worse.

Our Democratic and Republican elected leaders should be focused on creating jobs, not shipping them overseas. Creating better jobs and negotiating better lives are the priorities of UFCW Local **(insert number)**. These should be the priorities of America’s political leaders too.

If passed, the TPP will be one the largest trade deals the world has ever known. It includes 12 countries along the Pacific Rim and would impact 792 million people. Altogether, this massive trade agreement would govern 40 percent of the world’s economic output.

Amazingly and most concerning, every single line of this trade deal is being negotiated in secret.

The voices of regular Americans—from labor unions to environmental groups to civil rights organizations to consumer advocates—have been shut out of TPP negotiations, while 600 corporate lawyers are advising the U.S. Trade Representative.

Instead of addressing these failures, the Obama Administration is asking for “fast track” authority – a policy that will force Congress to simply approve or reject the finalized trade agreement, with no opportunity to make improvements. This ‘take it or leave it’ approach all but guarantees that workers and families all across **(insert state)** will pay a steep price.

Enough is enough.

Republican and Democratic politicians who support the TPP and “fast track” legislation to ram it through are ignoring the brutal truths of past trade agreements. It is America’s hard-working men and women, and their families, who will bear the biggest burden as jobs pay less or disappear completely.

To be clear, this is not about partisan politics. Fast Tracking the TPP will hurt Republican, Democratic, and Independent workers all across **(insert state)**.

On behalf of all hard-working men and women, whether they are part of our union family or not, we urge every Member of Congress from **(insert state)** to oppose the TPP and “fast track” legislation.

We can only hope that they will do what is right for all the people of our great state and nation.

**(Insert Local President name)** *is President of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local* **(insert number)***.*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TEMPLATES FOR UFCW LOCALS REGARDING TPP:**

**Template #1:**

Dear **(Insert name of newspaper)** Editor:

RE: (**Insert title of article, date of publication, and reporter’s name)**

The fact that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is being negotiated in secret should concern every American worker.

The entire progressive community, including UFCW Local **(insert number)**, environmental groups, civil rights organizations and consumer advocates, has been shut out of TPP negotiations. Meanwhile, 600 corporate lawyers are advising the U.S. Trade Representative. No one can reasonably expect a fair trade agreement to emerge from this undemocratic process.

Given the current struggles of working families in **(insert state)**, members of Congress should not be pursuing a fast track trade deal that widens the gap between the rich and the poor, threatens food safety, and gives working class families even less of a chance to find personal and professional success.

If members of Congress truly care about America’s working and middle classes, they will oppose fast tracking this terrible trade agreement.

***(Insert name)*** *is the* ***(insert title)*** *of UFCW Local* ***(insert number)*** *in* ***(insert name of city or town).***

**Template #2:**

Dear **(Insert name of newspaper)** Editor:

RE: (**Insert title of article, date of publication, and reporter’s name)**

While members of Congress profess to care about working and middle class Americans, their plans to fast track the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) say something quite different.

While 600 corporate lawyers have had access to the U.S. Trade Representative during the TPP negotiation process, the entire progressive community, including UFCW Local **(insert number)**, alongwithenvironmental, civil rights and consumer organizations, has been shut out of the talks. No one can reasonably expect a fair trade agreement to emerge from this undemocratic process.

This trade agreement will leave consumers with less to spend, eliminate more American jobs, threaten food safety, and increase the gap between the rich and poor. If our elected leaders are serious about helping the working and middle classes, they will reject fast-tracking a pro-corporate trade agreement that has been negotiated in secret.

***(Insert name)*** *is the* ***(insert title)*** *of UFCW Local* ***(insert number)*** *in* ***(insert name of city or town).***