

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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October 9, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

For the past several years the unified labor movement and our allies in the environmental, faith, consumer, family farm, academic and small business communities have called for public access to the negotiating texts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Even though some of us have had "cleared advisor" access to some draft texts, we have not been able to discuss the content publicly, with our members or colleagues, or with the press. Time and again, we have been denied public access to the TPP.

Now that the negotiations are concluded, we see no further reason for delaying public release of the full text of the TPP. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has long claimed the TPP will level the playing field for American workers and American business—that it will be the most "progressive" trade agreement in history. The American people are eager to have the opportunity to read the new rules for themselves.

In my experience, when there is such good news to share, there is no need for secrecy. If TPP will do for the American middle class all that USTR claims, releasing the text would be the single best way to prove that.

Creating a level playing field for American workers includes equal access to information, and the only way to ensure that is to ensure that all Americans have equal access to the text – not in 30 days, after the public relations spin has been spun, but right now. Asymmetrical access to information creates both the perception and the reality of asymmetrical content.

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Your administration has taken a lead on transparency in many other areas. The American people, the AFL-CIO, and our partners on trade issues look forward to reading the entire TPP in the very near future.

Sincerely,


Richard L. Trumka

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