

TPP=NAFTA on Steroids

President Obama says: "Don't fight the last war" on trade.
We keep saying: "Don't copy the last deal."



NAFTA Terms Replicated in TPP



Investor protections that promote offshoring
Difference: The TPP version is broader, providing protections to more forms of investment if it is relocated to a TPP country from the U.S. The TPP also includes offshoring-friendly Vietnam, where minimum wages are a fraction of those paid in China, independent unions are banned, and widespread use of forced and child labor has been cited by the U.S. Department of Labor.



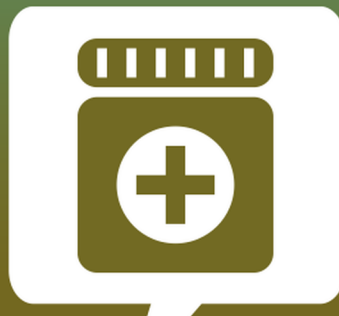
Ban on Buy American procurement preferences
Difference: Billions of our tax dollars would be offshored, with firms located in any TPP country given the same access to U.S. government contracts as domestic firms, with little in return. The U.S. federal procurement market is 10 times the size of all of the new TPP procurement markets combined. And, new Buy Local programs would also be banned.



Service sector rules that promote offshoring and limit consumer regulation
Difference: The TPP also requires free transfer of data and freedom of server location, meaning new incentives to offshore call centers, back office operations, accounting, engineering, and the like.



Limits on financial regulation
Difference: The TPP comes after the global financial crisis that demonstrated why the 1990s-style hyper-deregulation required by trade pact rules is a bad idea. And, the TPP includes countries that have actually used capital controls to avoid past crises, but would be barred from continuing to do so.



WTO-plus patent protection for medicines, which raise consumer prices
Difference: The TPP has new PhRMA goodies that will raise consumer drug prices even more – new-use patents required and other patent ever-greening tricks, data exclusivity for biologics, mandatory patent extensions for approval delays.



Limits on food safety standards & inspections
Difference: In the TPP, these limits have special new enforcement provisions. The TPP also includes major seafood exporters like Vietnam that have been repeatedly cited by the FDA for exporting seafood with high levels of contaminants.



Ineffective labor and environmental terms
While the TPP has these rules in the core text of the agreement, versus NAFTA's side agreements, the U.S. Government Accountability Office just published a report showing that the so-called improved May 2007 labor standards that the Democrats forced President Bush to include in various pacts are not working to actually improve conditions on the ground in countries where they are in effect. Meanwhile, the May 2007 environmental standards have been trumped by rules empowering foreign corporations to challenge government requirements to mitigate pollution, including clean up of a toxics-spewing smelter in Peru.



Investor-state tribunals where foreign corporations operating here can go to foreign tribunals staffed by private-sector lawyers to demand taxpayer compensation for having to meet the same policies as U.S. firms that they claim undermine their investor rights.
There is now an epidemic of these cases. Eli Lilly is attacking Canada's patent system that keeps drug prices low. Chevron is attacking an order to clean up massive oil pollution in the Amazon. Vattenfall is attacking Germany over its phase-out of nuclear power. Lone Pine is attacking a Canadian fracking moratorium. The Economist Cato Institute, and other "free traders" have come out against this attack on the rule of law.

New in TPP - NAFTA-plus

"Copyright" protections aimed at imposing a backdoor SOPA/ACTA



Extreme new rules on IPS liability and other aspects of the extreme agenda of the "content" mega-corporations that threatens Internet freedom.

Corporate rules for Internet governance



These terms would affect Net Neutrality and undermine data privacy safeguards.

New rights for Big PhRMA to attack Medicare cost saving policies



Rules favored by pharmaceutical corporations would undermine the U.S. government's ability to negotiate or mandate lower drug prices for taxpayer-funded programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid and veterans' and military health programs.