



**INTERNATIONAL
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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

SAM J. CHILIA
International
Secretary-Treasurer

June 23, 2015

The Honorable
United States Senate
Senate Office Buildings
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write in strong opposition to the Hatch-Wyden-Ryan "Fast Track 2015" legislation (H.R. 2146) and urge you to oppose its passage this week.

History has shown that free trade agreements are bad for American jobs, especially those in the manufacturing sector. However, the impact of bad free trade deals goes far beyond the manufacturing sector. Investment in plant construction and maintenance is dramatically reduced as corporations shift production overseas; reduced investment means reduced infrastructure development across the board. Reduced infrastructure investment means fewer jobs.

IBEW remains concerned that the secrecy surrounding the negotiation of Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreements will mean fewer worker and human rights protections, and urges the Senate to hold onto its authority to critically analyze trade agreements in committee and/or offer amendments on agreement provisions.

Congress should not waive its power to amend trade by granting President Obama TPA. The legislative machinations that have brought Fast Track back to the Senate for consideration have done nothing to address currency manipulation concerns, human rights/human trafficking issues, or worker training/assistance; there is no guarantee that concerns around funding or restrictions on TAA will be addressed by the House.

Supporting this legislation without adequate enforcement provisions for worker wages and protections, and without accommodation for those workers and their families whose livelihoods are affected by bad trade deals, will betray the most vulnerable workers in this country – the ones who most need your advocacy on this issue.

The IBEW believes it is very important for Congress to remain active in setting U.S. trade policy. I urge you to stand up for America's middle class, and oppose H.R. 2146 this week.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie Stephenson".

Lonnie Stephenson
International President

LRS:lgd