



TPP Fast Track: Stop the Secrecy

The White House and the U.S. Trade Representative have been busy negotiating restrictive digital regulations in back-room meetings for several years. They have been hashing out the terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)—both massive secret trade agreements that span the Pacific and Atlantic regions of the world. These deals contain a wide range of trade and non-trade related regulatory issues, but they also carry provisions that threaten users' human rights.

So far we only have leaks of the TPP, which have revealed a series of provisions that would not only extend the United States' restrictive copyright rules around the world, they could also lock the U.S. into dubious international standards that would discourage positive, user-oriented reforms in the future.



TPP's Threats to Digital Rights

- **The TPP bans DRM circumvention** even when there is no copyright infringement involved. It also criminalizes the sharing of the knowledge or tools to circumvent DRM.
- **The TPP would incentivize Internet content providers to police users for copyright violations.** This opens the door to filtering, DNS blocking, and Internet service providers monitoring users.
- **The TPP will lock the U.S. into its excessive length of copyright**—life of the author plus 70 years, or the shorter of 95 years after publication or 120 years after creation for corporate owned works.
- **The TPP threatens investigative journalists and whistleblowers.** Its vague language on trade secrets could criminalize anyone who reveals corporate wrongdoing through a “computer system.”

- **The TPP threatens user safeguards in U.S. copyright law.** The Investment Chapter enables corporations to sue nations over democratic rules that allegedly harm expected future profits. Foreign companies could use this process to undermine user protections like fair use and net neutrality.

Why We Are Opposed to Fast Track

- Fast Track is essentially a mechanism to rubberstamp approval for trade agreements negotiated through secretive, corporate-dominated processes.
- Fast Track hands Congress' own constitutionally mandated powers to oversee trade agreements over to the White House.
- Fast Track severely limits lawmakers' time to debate trade agreements and their provisions.
- Fast Track prevents lawmakers from being able to amend the trade deals after they have been negotiated in secret.
- Fast Track confines Congress' powers to an up-or-down vote on ratification.
- The Senate version of the Fast Track bill contains no requirements to ensure trade agreements contain balanced copyright rules or protections to uphold users' human rights.

How Members of Congress Must Act

- Come out publicly and strongly against Fast Track.
- Vote against any version of Fast Track that fails to comprehensively reform the secret, corporate-dominated processes of trade negotiation.
- During debate over the House Fast Track bill, address the secrecy of negotiations and the lack of user safeguards in trade agreements.
- Urge their colleagues to come out and vote against Fast Track.
- Call for trade agreements to uphold users' human rights to free speech, privacy, and innovation online.
- Demand the immediate and full release of texts of trade agreements that are currently under negotiation.

Diverse Coalition Opposes TPP Fast Track

EFF is joined by a broad coalition of organizations that are also opposed to the TPP and Fast Track. These include Sierra Club, AFL-CIO, Public Citizen, Doctors without Borders, Democracy for America, Food and Water Watch, and others.

For more information and to see other ways to take action, visit: eff.org/tpp