

Food and Ag Justice Collaborative

Dakota Resource Council (ND) * Dakota Rural Action (SD) * Idaho Organization of Resource Councils
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement * Land Stewardship Project (MN) * Missouri Rural Crisis Center
Northern Plains Resource Council (MT) * Oregon Rural Action * Powder River Basin Resource Council (WY)
Western Colorado Congress * Western Organization of Resource Councils

Fast Track: Oppose any version of Fast Track that does not ensure a meaningful role in the process for Congress and greater public transparency.

- Under Fast Track, Congress maintains no substantive oversight over trade policy, allowing the executive branch to write legislation implementing trade deals, and guaranteeing a vote within 90 days, with just 20 hours of debate and no amendments.
- When Fast Track was designed in the 1970s, trade agreements were narrowly focused to cut tariffs and quotas, not sweeping and binding changes to domestic policies including farm policy and food safety, government procurement, and much more.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): Oppose these agreements that are being negotiated in secrecy and undermine local, sustainable, family farm agriculture.

- The negotiation texts for both TPP and TTIP have not been released to the public and furthermore, U.S. trade representatives have suggested that text will not be released until the agreements are signed.
- Most free trade agreements ban procurement preferences such the strongly supported “Buy American” and “Buy Local” campaigns. Policies that support local food systems and geographic purchasing preferences of food could be under severe threat in the TPP.
- Industry trade groups have urged weakening of U.S. and European Union policies that limit or prohibit genetically modified organisms; the use of antibiotics, chemicals and other drugs barred in some countries (including the U.S.); animal byproducts in animal feed; the sale of offspring from cloned animals for food; or otherwise protect animal welfare and food safety.
- Leaked TPP text would grant broad rights to multi-national corporations to challenge domestic policies and safeguards as barriers to trade and demand compensation for the loss of expected profits.

Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL): Support the continued use of COOL and oppose any efforts to suspend, weaken or strike the labeling requirements.

- Canada and Mexico have challenged the U.S. COOL in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO panel’s decision is expected to be released in September.
- After urging from meatpacking industry groups, the FY 2015 House Agriculture Appropriations bill includes report language that attempts to require USDA to suspend the COOL rule if the WTO rules against the U.S. This language is extremely premature and unwarranted.