



Dear TPP Lead Negotiators from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and USA

Chris De Cure, Australia
Kirsten Hillman, Canada
David Walker, New Zealand
Barbara Weisel, USA:

As your respective political leaders adjourn the APEC summit in Bali and return to your capital, and before you try to resolve the several “sensitive issues” that remain in the TPP, we appeal to you on behalf of our one and a half million members, and especially the workers we represent in the dairy and food processing industries -- make this trade deal work for working families. If a final draft of the TPP erodes the rights or threatens the livelihoods of workers in any participating countries, we will oppose it at every political level and demand that you reopen negotiations, just as we would in collective bargaining with any employer who proposed a bad contract.

Our unions are affiliates of the IUF, the global trade union federation representing workers employed in agriculture, the preparation and manufacture of food and beverages, and in hotels, restaurants and catering services. For us, dairy market access and the other commodity tariff lines that will affect our members are not the only “sensitive issues” that will determine our support or opposition. International labour solidarity is the IUF’s guiding principle, and therefore we also insist that the TPP text achieve these three fundamental Fair Trade ambitions:

1. The TPP must respect freedom of association and the rights of workers in participating countries to collectively bargain and should ratify and uphold the core international labour conventions. The commitments in the Labour Chapter must include the elimination of child and forced labor and must be enforceable by dispute settlement and sanctions no less exacting than those that protect commercial interests.
2. The TPP must not restrict the right of working people to access affordable generic medicines. Countries must have the right to subsidise medicine costs for its citizens, manage the purchase of medicines to ensure they are affordable, regardless of the asserted intellectual property or investor rights of big pharmaceutical corporations.
3. The TPP must not grant foreign investors the right to sue governments. Our national and sub-federal governments must retain have the power to make laws that prioritise workers’ interests and citizen rights over the profit zeal of transnational investors.

Finally, we especially urge you to protect our workers in the dairy and food processing industries. These industries are growing in each of our countries and our unions are growing with them, guaranteeing that workers throughout the supply chains make living wages and enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining. The TPP won't change that; and if it is necessary to keep increased dairy market access, for example, "off the table" in the final rounds of your secret negotiations, we expect that you will consult with us and do what's right by our members.

Chris Flatt
National Secretary
New Zealand Dairy Workers Union

Robert Bouvier
President
Teamsters Canada

Rome Aloise
Vice President and Dairy Conference Director
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Charlie Donnelly
National Secretary
National Union of Workers

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Cc: Ron Oswald, General Secretary, IUF