



**INTERNATIONAL
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EDWIN D. HILL
International President

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Secretary-Treasurer

February 12, 2015

United States House of Representatives
U.S. House Office Buildings
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

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 Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).

History has shown that free trade agreements are bad for American jobs, especially those in the manufacturing sector. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) resulted in 700,000 lost U.S. jobs between 1993 and 2010. The Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) decreased U.S. exports to Korea, grew the trade deficit, and cost 60,000 U.S. jobs – all in the first two years after it took effect. Congress implemented NAFTA and KORUS under TPA. These are just two examples of why Congress' should not waive its power to amend trade by granting President Obama Trade Promotion Authority.

The secrecy that has surrounded the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations make it clear implementation of these agreements will be critical. Congress must not grant TPA and give up its authority to critically analyze the agreements in committee or offer amendments on agreement provisions.

The IBEW believes it is very important for Congress to remain active in setting U.S. trade policy. That is why I respectfully request that you do not support efforts to give the President Trade Promotion Authority and that you continue to protect congressional authority over trade policy.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:lgd