

# TEN FACTS ABOUT FAST TRACK

“Fast Track” is a policy that gives the executive branch the opportunity to negotiate—out of public view—as many trade agreements as it can during a given time period and send them to Congress, which may then only vote yes or no on the agreement; it may not amend the agreement or its “implementing bill,” nor may it send the agreement back to the executive branch with instructions for improvement.

No trade deal, no matter how bad, has ever been defeated under “Fast Track” procedures. While it’s possible to influence the Administration to reverse course and create a new, pro-worker trade policy, it will be nearly impossible to defeat global corporate interests if “Fast Track” is approved.

Below are ten facts outlining how “Fast Track” legislation affects working people.



**Costs Jobs:** Trade policies adopted under Fast Track have cost us more than 1 million jobs and contributed to the shuttering of more than 60,000 factories.



**Benefits the 1%:** Fast Track ensures trade policies are made by and for multinational corporations and the wealthy, making income distribution even more unequal and making it harder to get a raise.



**Undermines Democracy:** Fast Track doesn’t allow adequate public scrutiny of trade deals while they are being negotiated, and permits only a simple up-or-down vote—no amendments.



**Gives Power to Foreign Corporations That Invest in the United States:** Fasttracked trade deals almost always give mind-boggling legal rights and privileges to foreign investors—rights and privileges home-grown U.S. businesses don’t even have.



**Prevents Amendments:** Fast Track doesn’t allow our representatives to amend trade deals, no matter how problematic some provisions might be.



**Permits Foreign Currency Manipulation:** Current Fast Track legislation doesn’t require trade agreements to contain adequate provisions addressing currency manipulation, which economists estimate has cost up to 5 million U.S. jobs.



**Neglects Jobs:** The current Fast Track legislation doesn’t include negotiating objectives on job creation, reducing the trade deficit or protecting “Buy American” policies. In fact, it promotes offshoring of jobs through “global value chains.”



**Encourages Higher Drug Prices:** The current Fast Track legislation includes objectives that empower foreign drugmakers to challenge drug pricing and preferences in programs like Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE—raising costs for these programs, patients and all American taxpayers. It also could delay when generics come onto the market, raising drug prices for all of us.



**Hurts the Environment:** Previous trade deals negotiated under Fast Track have weakened environmental protections.



**Harms Communities:** Fast-tracked trade agreements have shut factories and devastated communities—harming even those who still have jobs by forcing cutbacks in such important public services as schools, libraries, road repair, and police and fire protection.



*“Bad trade deals negotiated through fast track only succeed in padding the pockets of giant corporations and destroying good, middle-class jobs and communities. Thousands of our BCTGM Brothers and Sisters have lost their jobs, houses and quality of life. There is no such thing as ‘Free Trade.’ The truth is the price is high.”*

— Joyce Alston,  
BCTGM L. 53 Pres. &  
GEB Member

**Call CONGRESS: 1-855-712-8441 — Tell them to say NO to “Fast Track”!**

