



March 5, 2015

As part of a day of high-stakes lobbying of their members of Congress on Capitol Hill yesterday, AFA-CWA members attended a press conference where Congressional and labor leaders announced their opposition to Fast Track for labor deals, especially the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

In a show of solidarity, as many as 800 union and community activists came to Capitol Hill to urge members of Congress to reject Fast Track.

“Oregon voters overwhelmingly oppose fast track authority,” said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, speaking of the procedural method Congress would use to give up most of its power over international trade to the United States Trade Representative and the Obama administration. California Labor Federation Chief Officer Art Pulaski told those in attendance that “trade policy has become a mountain of broken promises” that has failed to create jobs for Americans.



“Working Americans are hurting, they cannot afford another bad trade deal,” said Representative Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, who has been a leader in opposing the TPP and has been reaching across the aisle to Republicans in Congress to bring them on board to oppose Fast Track.

While the Obama administration has been pitching the TPP as a means to undermine Chinese economic power in the Pacific, Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon hit the on the head, saying “China loves this, they see all sorts of ways to decimate American manufacturing.”



AFA believes that the trade policies of the last two decades have failed workers here at home and around the world. We will continue to oppose Fast Track, the TPP and TTIP, and any other trade agreement negotiated in secret by the United States Trade Representative.

