

15 good reasons to challenge the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement



Martin Henderson, Actor. Spending time away has made me understand how fortunate we are to have everything that makes being a Kiwi so unique and special. A Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement would put at risk the best of New Zealand to give more power to foreign corporations. We have so much to lose with this shonky deal: control of our land and natural resources, affordable medicine, cultural diversity. Never heard of TPPA? Find out before our sovereignty and democracy gets signed away.



Jeanette Fitzsimmons, former Green Party Co-leader. A TPPA could give transnational companies the right to sue future governments if they legislated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or restrict the use of Genetic Engineering technology. It would give away the freedom of our children and grandchildren to determine their own future. Please help us stop it.



Bryan Gould, economic commentator, former Vice-Chancellor & MP. Why should we cede yet more control over our economy - allowing foreign corporations to enforce rights against our government that are not available to our own firms - in pursuit of much greater access to the American market for our dairy products that the US dairy industry will never allow?



Moana Maniapoto, Musician. Intellectual property laws meant I couldn't use my own name to sing in Germany! Then I discovered that Ford, Sony and other US companies had exclusive rights over Maori language, cultural icons and other taonga that were guaranteed in our own Treaty. A TPPA will make that ten times worse. We need to protect our unique culture, environment and land for the next generation. It's in all our interests to say Taihoa.



Hone Harawira, Maori Party MP. NZ governments fall over themselves to sign free trade agreements where foreign multi-billion dollar corporates come first and indigenous peoples and the Treaty of Waitangi come last. We all remember the savage impact of trade liberalization on workers, particularly Maori in manufacturing jobs; now a TPPA threatens open season on assets, plunder of intellectual and cultural heritage, and health care only the rich can afford. Is this the Aotearoa we want?



Dr Gay Keating, National Executive Officer, Public Health Association of New Zealand. Health starts, long before illness, in our homes, schools and jobs. Laws - such as food quality, smokefree laws, alcohol control - are our decisions on how to keep our

neighbourhoods and homes safer. We should not be told what to do by other countries in a TPPA, just as we should not be letting smaller Pacific states be bullied into bad laws that make bad health, either.



Tony Simpson, President, Society of Authors. We fear that the proposed TPPA has serious negative potential consequences for the expression of our culture both in literature and more broadly, as well as our intellectual property protections. That unique culture must not be sacrificed for illusory or minor economic advantages.



Cathy Casey, Auckland Councillor. We recently elected a new Auckland Council that wants to build resilient communities across the region, support local business and retain our public assets. I believe a TPPA would pose a barrier to those three laudable roles and give foreign investors too much power in New Zealand.



John Roberts, President-elect Methodist Church of NZ. The world needs just trade, not free trade. Unlimited economic growth and wealth accumulation are the pillars of free trade. These violate gospel values. Free trade contributes to global inequality and injustice. Justice for the poorest members of society will always be the test of any trade agreement.



Andrew Campbell, finsec Campaigns Director. The Global Financial Crisis has highlighted the enormous risk of an under-regulated financial services sector. While most countries are strengthening rules around how banks operate, a TPPA

could straightjacket New Zealand with the weak rules that saw us labelled the 'wild west' in the 1990s and, if Washington's financial lobbyists have their way, will allow Wall Street to bring down the US economy again.



Murray Horton, Secretary/Organiser, CAFCA. A free trade agreement with the US (via the TPPA) aims to remove any remaining "restrictions" on foreign investment by US transnational corporations under NZ's (token) oversight regime. The government groveling to Warner Brothers over *The Hobbit* is a textbook example of corporate welfare and feudal forelock tugging, and shows what bullyboy brinkmanship by US Big Business holds for the future.



Professor Jane Kelsey, editor No Ordinary Deal. The TPPA is billed as an agreement for the 21st century. But it will do nothing to address the challenges of financial instability, climate change, energy scarcity, job insecurity, structural poverty and inequality. Instead, it will

lock future governments into a failed regime where markets rule for the next 100 years.



Joe Fleetwood, General Secretary, Maritime Union of New Zealand. Working people should be demanding to be told the truth about TPPA and free trade agreements. Our jobs, rights and conditions as workers are under threat from the hidden dangers of free trade. So is our democracy. We are walking into a free trade trap. We don't want to be the guinea pigs in another failed experiment.



Robert Reid, General Secretary, National Distribution Union. First they came for the car plants, then they came for the clothing and textile sector jobs but the country was silent. Now they are coming for our affordable medicines, our land, our environment, our work

rights, the rest of our economy, our sovereignty. We can remain silent no longer.



Are you the 15th good reason to challenge the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement?

Learn more about what a TPP agreement would mean for NZ

Public meeting: Tuesday 7 Dec, 6-8pm, St Matthew-in-the-City, Cnr Hobson & Wellesley Sts. Prof. Jane Kelsey and commentators Mike Smith, Andrew Campbell, Sanya Reid Smith (Third World Network) and other international experts. (*The views expressed during this event are not necessarily those of St Matthew-in-the-City.*)

Online: www.tppwatch.org

No Ordinary Deal: Unmasking the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement, edited by Jane Kelsey. Bridget Williams Books, RRP \$39.99. Order from your bookseller or www.bwb.co.nz

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