
HOW TO WRITE A “LETTER TO THE EDITOR LETTER” REGARDING FAST TRACK

(aka: Trade Promotion Authority)

EASY STEPS

1) CONTACT THE “LETTERS TO THE EDITOR” editor of your local paper. Be professional and polite.

Find out:

- If submissions are accepted by mail, fax, or snail mail.
- The maximum number of words allowed.
- To whom your letter should be addressed.
- The time frame for publication.
- What contact information of yours should be included with your submission.
- Will someone contact you regarding the acceptance of your letter.
- How often can you publish a new letter.

2) GO TO THE ONLINE SITE for your local paper to see what articles they’ve published regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

- In the “Find” field, enter “Trans-Pacific Partnership.”
- You can also enter “Fast Track,” but it is unlikely to yield a result.
- If article(s) or other Letters to the Editor/OP EDs surface, be sure to read them.
- Reference the article/letter/OP ED [typically, but not necessarily the latest article] in your letter.

For example:

“Regarding the article entitled [title, date] about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, I noticed there was no mention [or brief mention] of Fast Track,” or..

“I’d like to elaborate on the Fast Track points that the article [name of article, date] touched upon...”

- Keep the text of your letter concise.
- Letters are easier to read if there is a new paragraph for each new thought.
- Ask a few people to proof your letter. A fresh pair of eyes can ensure that your message is clear.
- Encourage as many others in your community to write and submit similar letters. We need many !

3) IF YOUR PAPER has never published an article about the TPP or Fast Track:

- You might begin your letter by saying something like:
“It is of great concern to me that one of the most critical issues of our day, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has not yet been addressed in [name of paper]. I am particularly concerned that the TPP could be Fast Tracked...”

4) FOLLOW - UP after submitting your letter with a polite call. This will assist getting printed.

* See the sample script at the bottom.

5) MESSAGE A COPY of your letter to Expose the TPP - USA. Please include:

- The name and town of the newspaper.
 - The date published.
 - Viewer responses.
 - Was the editor was receptive, or did you need to urge them to accept your submission.
 - Any other intel.
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150 WORD TEMPLATE LETTER

The Critical Need for a NO Vote on Fast Track

A bill to Fast Track trade agreements is expected to drop in D.C. the week of January 7. Fast Track would enable the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to pass through Congress with minimal review and absolutely no amendments.

Article 1, Section 8, of the US Constitution grants Congress authority to negotiate foreign trade. Fast Track would defy this Constitutional mandate by giving this power to the President.

Fast Track would neuter our system of democratic checks and balances. Congress needs to vote "NO" on Fast Track so they can properly vet the 29 chapters of TPP legalese written in secret by over 600 corporate advisers.

There is no acceptable version of Fast Track.

Fast Track must be defeated in the House. I encourage all Americans to call their U.S. House Representative immediately. Urge him/her to take a public stand against Fast Track by contacting Rep. Miller's office to sign the DeLauro-Miller letter now.

*** TIPS FOR A GREAT FOLLOW-UP CALL:**

1. Be sure to ask if they are busy. If they say yes, respect their time and call back when they say they're available to talk.
2. Be persistent but professional and polite. Keep the bigger picture in mind as you may want future letters accepted. Again, this is all about developing relationships.
3. Stress the local relevance and timeliness of your letter.
4. Ask very directly if they plan to print it, and if they say no ask if there is a way you can revise it to make it more useful. Often, that means shortening it or tying it to local concerns.
5. **If your paper refuses your submission, ask for feedback in order to resubmit. Let Expose the TPP-USA know of absolute refusal. We can support you with a petition process.**

EXAMPLE FOLLOW-UP SCRIPT: (Be SUPER polite... no matter what. Smile as you talk. :-)

YOU:

Hello, is this _____.

Letters editor: Yes.

YOU:

Hi. My name is _____, and I'm _____ (the owner of [business name] or member of XYZ.) I'm calling to follow-up on a letter to the editor that I submitted. Do you have a moment to speak now?

Letters editor: Sure.

YOU:

“Great. The letter I submitted is about the importance of stopping the Fast Track Bill from slipping through the US Congress. Fast Track, also known as Trade Promotion Authority, would take away the intended democratic checks and balances outlined by Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution. The bill will be introduced the week of January 7. Will you please print my letter so that our community has the opportunity to hear about this critical issue?”

Letters editor: Ok, sounds good.

YOU:

Do you think you'll have space to print my letter this week, as time is of the essence?

Letters editor: Well space is always very tight. I will have a look at it, and see if we can use it.

YOU:

Great. Thank you for considering it. Will someone let me know if it is accepted?

Letters editor: Sure. (Or, call back in 3 days to see, etc.)

YOU:

Okay, thanks, again. I appreciate your time and assistance very much. Good bye.

TO LEARN MORE about the TPP and Fast Track go to:

Expose The TPP - USA on Facebook.

Overview video on FT/TPP: <http://tinyurl.com/HellNoTPP>

HELP YOUR STATE GROUP DEFEAT FAST TRACK/TPP:

www.tinyurl.com/StateActionGroups

