

***Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Aquashicola/ Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Brandywine Watershed Regeneration ~ Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
Environment New Jersey ~ Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition of Luzerne County
Harmony Hill Lodging and Retreat Center ~ Kickapoo Peace Circle
PA Interfaith Power & Light ~ Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens
Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter ~ South River Federation
WESPAC Foundation ~ Waterkeeper Alliance***

For Immediate Release

April 16, 2015

Contacts:

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network,
215 369 1188 ext 102 (rings cell and office)

Alfonso Rodriguez, Pres., Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition of Luzerne County, Pa 570-213-4950

Maria Payan, Executive Director, Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens, 717 826-7286 cell

Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey, 917-449-6812 (cell)

Bruce Ferguson, Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy, bafbafbafb@gmail.com

Marcia Halligan, Kickapoo Peace Circle, cocoon@mwt.net

Nada Khader, Executive Director, WESPAC Foundation, 914.449.6514

Bob Holliday, Founder, Brandywine Watershed Regeneration Initiative, 610-717-2265

Cricket Eccleston Hunter, Director, PA Interfaith Power & Light, 814.876.2597

Peter Cleary, Waterkeeper Alliance, 707.633.6002

Chris Rosenthal, owner and operator, Harmony Hill Lodging and Retreat Center, 607-28-6609

Joanne Kilgour, Chapter Director, Sierra Club PA Chapter, 412-965-9973 (cell)

Diana Muller, South RIVERKEEPER & Director of Scientific Research South River Federation, 410-224-3802

Jim Vogt, President, APWC, 570-992-5125

***Fast Track Legislation Introduced
To Rush Trade Deals Without Appropriate Congressional
Input or Oversight***

Environmental Organizations Strongly Oppose Bill

Washington, DC: Monday, April 16, 2015 Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and House Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) proposed the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 that would fast track presidential and congressional approval of trade deals. If this legislation were to pass it would give President Obama the authority to finish negotiating trade deals like that Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement (TPP), sign

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dm@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

them, and send them to Congress for a simple up and down vote with no amendments and limited debate.

Secret trade negotiations between the United States and 11 other countries to secure a Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement (TPP) are nearing an end. Leaked texts and news reports show that the TPP would weaken our environmental standards, open the floodgates to more fracking, mandate LNG exports to a growing number of countries, and empower corporations to attack climate policies and environmental protection laws in secret trade tribunals. Other secret deals such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership are also under negotiation and would benefit from the fast tracking of Congressional approval that prevents detailed congressional review and oversight prior to approval.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Aquashicola/ Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy, Brandywine Watershed Regeneration, Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy , Environment New Jersey, Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition of Luzerne County, Harmony Hill Lodging and Retreat Center, Kickapoo Peace Circle, PA Interfaith Power & Light, Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens, Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter, South River Federation, Waterkeeper Alliance, WESPAC Foundation, have issued the following statement:

At a time when Americans are looking for Congressional leadership, we can't afford to tie the hands of Congress on the most important trade issues of the day. Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 replicates the old failed model of fast track that enables the President to send already signed trade pacts to Congress for limited floor debate, no amendments, and a straight up-or-down vote. With fast track, Congress loses its ability to ensure that trade pacts protect communities and the environment.

This is particularly concerning given what we know about the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Leaked TPP drafts and news reports show that the trade agreement would have a big impact on our climate. The TPP would weaken our environmental standards, open the floodgates to more fracking, grease the wheels for increased LNG exports, and empower corporations to attack climate and other policies in secret trade tribunals.

On a whole range of issues, the TPP simply falls short. We need a Congress that is fully engaged to ensure trade agreements like this reflect our values. Fast track would send the wrong message that Congress is asleep at the wheel when Americans are looking for leadership.

We urge all of our congressional leaders to Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 and to ensure they are fully engaged in the review of trade deals that affect both present and future generations of our nation.

#####