



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL:

May 12, 2014, at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time

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**Proposed Plans for U.S./EU Trade Deal Would Weaken
Health, Consumer, Worker, Environmental Protections**

Plans Would Enable Foreign Governments and Businesses to Undermine Laws

WASHINGTON, D.C. – According to a leaked position paper and statements by trade officials, current proposals being floated as part of the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP, also known as the Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA)) would grant foreign governments and corporations an increased opportunity to influence public protections in both the European Union and the United States. This would include standards related to food safety, toxic chemicals, occupational health, and the protection of the environment.

In response, 177 environmental, health, labor, and consumer organizations [are demanding](#) detailed explanations from EU and U.S. trade negotiators about proposals to address differences in their laws. The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards is among the local, national and international groups that are calling on negotiators to answer questions about the potential of TTIP to weaken health, consumer, worker, and environmental protections and that are urging full transparency on regulatory issues in the TTIP negotiations.

Under these proposals, regulators could use sweeping tools, such as “mutual recognition,” to address regulatory differences, which could erase higher levels of protection in the EU or the U.S. and deter stronger standards in the future. States in the U.S. and Member States in the EU would also be subject to onerous consultation procedures and trade impact-analyses. These tools would focus almost exclusively on impacts on trade and costs to corporations while ignoring the many benefits that standards and safeguards deliver for our health, safety, and overall quality of life.

The trade benefits that negotiators are focused on are entirely economic and paint a target on both the EU and U.S. systems of standards and safeguards. A study by the European Commission on the potential economic impacts of the trade deal estimates that 80 percent of TTIP’s economic benefits would come from addressing regulatory differences between the EU and the U.S.

“The top-down coordination of these measures through an institutional framework for transatlantic regulatory cooperation, we feel, would likely become a significant source of delay

and preempt a state, a country, or region's ability to maintain or establish stronger standards when consumers demand such or to respond to emerging technologies, new scientific information, preferred policies by the public, and urgent crises," the groups said in a joint letter today.

Most major corporations in the United States and Europe have submitted public comments to the negotiators demanding weaker public safeguards in the name of international trade. In the letter, the public interest groups state that "one of our main concerns is that regulatory cooperation as suggested by negotiators will allow business groups and their lobbyists to exert undue influence in the regulatory process."

"The predictions that this trade deal would be used as a vehicle to try to weaken domestic safeguards are basically coming true," said Gynnie Robnett, Coalition for Sensible Safeguards coordinator. "Americans and Europeans alike want safeguards that prioritize protecting them, not protecting the interests of foreign governments or companies."

[The letter and full list of signatories are available online.](#)

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The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards is an alliance of consumer, labor, scientific, research, good government, faith, community, health, environmental, and public interest groups, as well as concerned individuals, joined in the belief that our country's system of regulatory safeguards provides a stable framework that secures our quality of life and paves the way for a sound economy that benefits us all. For more information about the coalition, see [http://www.sensible safeguards.org/about us](http://www.sensible safeguards.org/about_us).