

If you have not yet heard about the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement, it's because the corporate special interests pushing it don't want you to know anything about it until it is too late.

It is so bad that even members of Congress are forbidden from telling us what they know about it. It is so bad that journalists are forbidden from conferences where it is being negotiated in secret, lest they tell the rest of us about what's it in, only wealthy lobbyists welcome.

But what we do know from leaked documents is that they are plotting a massive corporate takeover of government trade policy, including gutting privacy rights, crippling internet freedom, unfettered worldwide exploitation of workers and unbridled environmental destruction, all in the name of maximization of private corporate profit, which is to say greed.

And to bend over backwards to these horrors as much as possible, certain members of Congress are apparently about to introduce a bill to abdicate their constitutional authority to make trade policy, by delegating so-called "fast track" authority to some agency amenable to these same self-serving corporations.

Under NO circumstances can Congress consent to dereliction of their responsibility to protect the trade interests of the American people.

For the last four years Congress has refused to legislate at all except on a stop gap, last minute emergency basis. It's time for Congress to start governing again, by rejecting "fast track" irresponsibility over trade policy.