



Written by [Larry Greenley](#) on May 23, 2016

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No Lame-duck TPP Trade Deal

Given the anti-TPP presidential campaign rhetoric from the leading candidates of both major political parties this year, supporters of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact are concluding that their only realistic chance of getting Congress to approve the TPP will be during the lame-duck session after the November elections.

They know that during these lame-duck sessions of Congress, customarily held every two years after congressional elections and before a new Congress begins in the following January, accountability to the voters is at a minimum due to the presence of so many retired or defeated congressmen and due to the nearly two years before any congressmen will face their constituents in an election again.



A vote on approving a trade deal should never be held during a lame-duck session. Such trade agreements should be either voted on before the two-year elections or after the new Congress is seated in January following the elections.

The reason why we shouldn't allow a vote on the TPP agreement to happen in the easier-going environment of a lame-duck session is that the TPP is so dangerous to our national sovereignty and our jobs.

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) has warned about the global-governance danger posed by the TPP:

Among the TPP's endless pages are rules for labor, environment, immigration and every aspect of global commerce — and a new international regulatory structure to promulgate, implement, and enforce these rules.... This new structure is known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Commission — a Pacific Union — which meets, appoints unelected bureaucrats, adopts rules, and changes the agreement after adoption.

William F. Jasper ("10 Reasons Why You Should Oppose TPP and TTIP," [TheNewAmerican.com](#), June 5, 2015) has exposed just how inaccurate the deceptive rosy economic "forecasts" were about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and how the very same forecasters are now projecting rosy economic outcomes for the TPP.

Although Republican congressmen currently support so-called free trade agreements to a much greater extent than Democratic congressmen, a recent Pew poll shows that only 40 percent of Republican voters think "free trade" agreements are a good thing, versus 52 percent who think they're a bad thing. For Democratic voters, 60 percent think "free trade" agreements are a good thing, versus 30 percent who think they're a bad thing. Obviously, anti-TPP Republican voters need to make the Republican



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representatives and senators running for election this year more aware of just how unpopular such “free trade” agreements are among Republicans.

In March and April, there was a spate of articles about an encouraging movement among conservatives in Congress that is being supported by various conservative organizations to cancel this year’s lame-duck session in order to prevent congressional approval of the TPP. An example of this is “Why conservatives want to cancel Congress’s lame-duck session, explained,” published by the *Washington Post* on March 30. According to the *Post* article,

Former House historian Ray Smock says canceling the lame-duck session would be unprecedented but not illegal. Congress can set its own schedule, so if both House and Senate leaders agree not to meet, they can simply not meet.

That congressional approval of the TPP could still happen this year in spite of all the anti-TPP presidential campaign rhetoric was revealed by President Obama’s remarks during a press conference in Germany on April 24: “With respect to Congress and Trans-Pacific Partnership, I think after the primary season is over the politics settle down a little bit in Congress, and we’ll be in a position to start moving forward.”

So the task for supporters of this movement to prevent approval of the TPP in a lame-duck session this year is simply to generate enough pressure on the House and Senate leaders to get them to cancel this year’s lame-duck session. One way to do this would be to find a way to insert this idea into one of the presidential campaigns.

Anti-TPP citizens are encouraged to phone their representative (202-225-3121) and senators (202-224-3121) and request their support for stopping the TPP by canceling this year’s lame-duck session. The John Birch Society has set up a legislative alert, “No Lame Duck TPP Trade Deal,” at [JBS.org](#) to enable easy e-mailing to members of Congress with the same message.



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