



25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC FOCUS

The next meeting of the 25th Legislative District Democrats will be held on July 6th and will be our endorsement meeting for County Charter Review Commission, School Boards, and Port Commissioners. Anyone who has been a General Member for at least 30 days as of the July 6th meeting and any Precinct Committee Officer is eligible to vote on endorsements. There are several members of the 25th Legislative District Democratic Organization that are running for office so please come and hear their presentation and take part in the endorsement process.

Common Dreams

'A Great Day for Corporate America': US Senate Passes Fast Track

'Shameful' vote all but ensures approval of mammoth trade deals like the TransPacific Partnership

By Deirdre Fulton, staff writer

Thirteen Senate Democrats joined Republicans to make sure corporate interests had the necessary votes to pass the Fast Track bill through the chamber. "How shameful," said Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), who voted against the measure.

In a win for multinational corporations and the global one percent, the U.S. Senate on Tuesday narrowly advanced Fast Track, or Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) —ensuring for all practical purposes the continued rubber-stamping of clandestine trade agreements like the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and TransAtlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

The cloture motion to end debate needed 60 votes and it got just that, **passing the chamber 60-37**. A final vote will come on Wednesday. Having overcome the biggest hurdle, the legislation is expected to pass, and will then be sent to President Barack Obama's desk to become law.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who campaigned vigorously against Fast Track, said the vote represented a win for corporate America. "The vote today—pushed by multi-national corporations, pharmaceutical companies and Wall Street—will mean a continuation of disastrous trade policies which have cost our country millions of decent-paying jobs," the presidential candidate **said in a statement**.

And Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), another of the most vocal opponents of Fast Track, **railed against TPA** moments before the vote, accusing Congress of turning on its "moral" obligation to assist the working class.

"How shameful," Brown said. "We're making this decision knowing that people will lose their jobs because of our action."

According to *The Hill*:

Thirteen Democrats backed fast-track in Tuesday's vote, handing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) a major legislative victory. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) voted against the procedural motion.

The Democrats cast "yes" votes even though the trade package did not include a workers assistance program for people displaced by increased trade. The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program was a part of the last fast-track package approved by the Senate in May, but became a key part of opposition to the package among Democrats in the House.

Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, **pointed out** that the vote only came about via "elaborate legislative contortions and gimmicks designed to hand multinational corporations their top priority."

Such contortions were necessary, she added, "because the American people overwhelmingly oppose these deals, notwithstanding an endless barrage of propaganda."

Indeed, response from the progressive grassroots was fast—and furious.

"We're outraged that Congress today voted to fast track pollution, rather than the job-creating clean energy we need to address climate change," said May Boeve, executive director of 350.org. "It's clear this deal would extend the world's dependence on fracked gas, forbid our negotiators from ever using trade agreements in the fight against global warming, and make it easier for big polluters to burn carbon while suing anyone who gets in the way. That's why we're so disappointed President Obama has taken up the banner for ramming this legislative pollution through the halls of Congress, in a way he never pushed for a climate bill."

Groups threatened political fall-out for those Democrats who voted in favor of Fast Track.

"Senate Democrats who just voted to proceed on Fast Track for the job-killing Trans-Pacific Partnership openly betrayed the grassroots Democratic activists who helped elect them and have been exceedingly clear in their opposition to any legislation that allows more NAFTA-style trade deals to be jammed through Congress," said Jim Dean, chair of Democracy for America. "The Senate Democrats who allowed Fast Track should know that this vote will be remembered, it will not be erased, and we will hold you accountable."

Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Watch, echoed that warning as she declared, "The senators who provided the margin of Fast Track victory will face angry voters in their next elections. Constituents will hold them accountable for putting the interests of transnational corporations ahead of the public."

In addition to calling out Senate Democrats who "betrayed people and the planet" by voting for cloture on Tuesday, National People's Action Campaign executive director George Goehl lambasted "the virtual silence of the leading Democratic candidate for president," which he said "shows the stranglehold corporations have over both political parties."

And Sarah Anderson, director of the Global Economy program at the Institute for Policy Studies, said it was clear who will benefit most if the pending deals are given final passage. Today is a "great day for the big money interests," she said following the Senate vote.

*These are the 13 "Democratic" Senators who voted for the TPA bill: Michael Bennet (Colo.), Tom Carper (Del.), Chris Coons (Del.), **Maria Cantwell (Wash.)**, Dianne Feinstein (Calif.), Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.), Tim Kaine (Va.), Claire McCaskill (Mo.), **Patty Murray (Wash.)**, Bill Nelson (Fla.), Jeanne Shaheen (N.H.), Mark Warner (Va.), and Ron Wyden (Ore.).*

Chair's Message

Ed Herde

Thank you Congressman Denny Heck for voting against the Trade Promotion Authority bill that came up in the House and later the Senate in June. Congressman Heck said he could not support giving the president the authority to negotiate trade agreements because important items like infrastructure investment, immigration reform, and reauthorizing of the Export-Import Bank are not being addressed in current negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The TPP that is being negotiated in secret by some 490+ lawyers from multi-national corporations and less than 10 representatives from environmental and labor groups is rumored to have 27 chapters with creative ways to give more profit and power to foreign corporations and foreign subsidiaries of US corporations, and only 2 chapters dealing with actual trade rules. Whatever the reason for your vote thank you Representative Heck for not voting to give up Congress's authority to negotiate trade and treaties. Also voting no on the TPA bill were Democrats Adam Smith and Jim McDermott. Shamelessly ignoring the stated views of the Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee were Democratic Reps Susan DelBene, Derek Kilmer, and Rick Larson. Telling the grass roots Democratic leaders to go shove it were both of our senators, Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray.

Every Democratic Congressional representative from Washington that voted for Trade Promotion Authority did so against the stated position of the Washington State Democrats Central Committee. The WSDCC is made up of one woman and one man from each county and legislative district in the state, elected officers of the state party, and some elected Democratic leaders. The county and LD grassroots Central Committee members are 176 strong and come from quite varied backgrounds, they are unpaid and volunteer for these positions because they care deeply about the principles of the Democratic Party and the direction of the party. These grassroots members of the Central Committee are the vast majority of the entire Central Committee. In April of this year at the quarterly meeting in Pasco the Washington State Democrats Central Committee voted overwhelmingly (over 95%) in opposition to Trade Promotion Authority and the Trans-Pacific Partnership when they passed resolution WSDCCRES - 707 – 150418.

There were 13 Democratic Senators who voted with the Republicans in June to give the president "trade" negotiating authority for the next six years no matter who is president. There were 60 yes votes to pass TPA, just enough to break a filibuster. As two of those 13 senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell gave the Republicans what they wanted and kicked sand in the face of their state's grass roots Democratic leaders.

The above referenced resolution can be found at the website of the Washington State Democratic Party at this link <http://www.wa-democrats.org/sites/wadems/files/resolutions/WSDCCRES%20-%20707%20-%20150418%20-%20PASS%20-%20FOR%20-%20Opposing%20TPP.pdf>

7-15

Stop Laughing at Donald Trump by Eric Herde

I know it's hard. He is a comical, cartoonish figure, saying ridiculous things. However, he is a comical cartoonish *wealthy* figure saying ridiculous things, and if you listen carefully, mixed in with his random utterances you will find the occasional reference to actual problems faced by working people, although he never proposes real solutions. This is troubling, for reasons readily apparent to those who have been closely following European politics.

In various European countries, there are currently right-wing populist parties. They vary in how dangerous they are, but they all follow the same general formula. A wealthy, comical, yet charismatic person serves as the figurehead. He brings up real economic problems faced by workers, but he never suggests any workable solutions to those problems, because the solutions would threaten his economic power and that of his friends. Instead, he scapegoats racial or ethnic minorities, or people whose behavior deviates in some way from what is traditional (e.g. feminists or segments of the LGBT+ community). Whether or not the figurehead and his party acquire power, the prominence of such bigoted rhetoric tends to increase the level of violence against the targeted groups. At the same time, many people are distracted from real solutions to the economic problems faced by the country.

Our strong two-party system has so far prevented us from seeing this phenomenon in the US, but this is only because it has been masked. It is much more effective for a prospective right-wing populist to work within the Republican Party than to start a new party. Several tea partiers seem to be following this model, but because they are operating within a party that is larger than just right-wing populism, they do not have a strong organized structure, and have been unable to be particularly successful, although they have done plenty of damage. As a Presidential candidate, Donald Trump has the capability to bring right-wing populism into a much more prominent position. That is why he should worry us, not amuse us.

25th Legislative District Democratic Organization

Member Meeting, June 1st, 2015

Held at the Puyallup Library

Meeting called to order at 7:14 pm by Chair Ed Herde. Ed Herde led the flag salute. Roll was called.

Executive Board Members Present: Chair Ed Herde, Vice Chair Karen Edwards, Parliamentarian & Webster Cliff Allo, Sergeant at Arms Bryan Yambe, Membership Chair Blaine Pearman, PCO Chair Eric Herde, Focus Editor Joan Cronk, State Committeewoman Ellen Zulauf, PC Dem Rep #3 Merv Swanson

Agenda passed unanimously

Elected officials spoke: Julie Door and John Palmer both of the Puyallup City Council

Candidates spoke: Bryan Yambe, Robin Farris, Robin Ordonez, and Dean Johnson

Motion to endorse Bryan Yambe (Cliff Allo) passed unanimously

Motion to endorse Robin Farris (Jerry Beckendorf) passed unanimously

Motion to endorse Robin Ordonez (Al Rose) passed unanimously

Motion to endorse Dean Johnson (Joan Cronk) passed unanimously

Motion to encourage the Executive Board to do whatever it can to advance John Palmer's candidacy without violating his interpretation of the Hatch Act (Carolyn Merrival) passed unanimously

Motion to pass resolution endorsing I-732 for a Revenue Neutral Carbon Tax (Chris Chisolm) passed with none opposed and two abstentions

Good of the Order: Carolyn Merrival, Eric Herde, and Jerry Beckendorf

Democratic Focus July
2015

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**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?
DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2015
Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
In helping our Democratic party**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL** _____

**Dues: Evergreen (Includes Senior, outside district, etc.) \$10 per member
Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100. (Can be paid
In installments.)**

**Please send dues to: 25th LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374 or pay by
credit card on <https://secureform.cloud.clickandpledge.com/20184/1>**

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