May 11, 2015

Dear Member of Congress,

As leaders in labor, women’s, and LGBT organizations we stand together in opposing “Fast Track,” otherwise known as Trade Promotion Authority. Under Fast Track, Congress would cede its constitutional power to amend trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to ensure agreements work for our jobs, our environment and communities.

We are further concerned about the inclusion of anti-gay, anti-woman Brunei as a negotiating partner in the TPP. Last year, Brunei began a phased implantation of a new penal code which will impose the death penalty by stoning for same-sex sexual relations and adultery\(^1\). Additionally, the penal code calls for the jailing of women that have abortions and fines and imprisonment for women who give birth out of wedlock. In June of last year, 119 members of Congress wrote to the US Trade Representative asking that Brunei be suspended from TPP talks. Yet, Brunei remains a member of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership. Under Fast Track, Congress would lose its power to exclude Brunei from the TPP and future trade agreements.

We urge you to vote against Fast Track. Please see our attached Fact Sheet, co-written by UNITE HERE, Feminist Majority, Pride At Work, and National Organization for Women’s California affiliate for more information on how Fast Track will be a disaster not only for workers, but for women and LGBT people around the world.

Thank you,

D. Taylor  
President, UNITE HERE

Eleanor Smeal  
President, Feminist Majority

Terry O’Neill  
President, NOW

Jermaine Davis  
Executive Director, Pride At Work

Patty Bellasalma  
President, California NOW

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