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January 13, 2015

U.S. Congress
Washington, DC 20510

To the Members of the 114th Congress:

President Obama, over the course of the past six years, has directed an unprecedented expansion of Executive Branch authority at the expense of Congress.

His pronouncement of Executive Amnesty for illegal aliens is just the latest example, but it is a natural expansion for an Administration that has chosen not to enforce laws that they oppose, and have made regulatory changes to the plain letter of their signature health care law when it suited their purposes.

Among numerous other examples, the Environmental Protection Agency has engaged in unprecedented power grabs effectively overriding Congress' decision to not pass proposed Cap and Trade legislation into law even though Democrats controlled both Chambers.

Now, some are urging that Congress voluntarily cede much of their Constitutional power in relation to the making of Treaties by providing this President Fast Track Authority in negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership Treaty (TPP).

In light of this President's disregard for Congressional prerogatives, it would be inexcusable for Congress to provide this President with any additional power.

Given the fact that the TPP has largely been negotiated in secret with only the Administration's multi-national stakeholder partners involved, it is Congress' duty to examine every jot and note to ensure that American interests are protected.

President Obama has seized power time and again, and Congress has effectively thrown up its hands in despair. Denying him Fast Track Authority sends a clear message that enough is enough.

It tells this President that Congress will stand up for itself as a co-equal branch of government and engage in a thorough and complete examination of any agreements that he signs. It also most importantly puts the brakes on any implementing regulations that this Administration would rush into place under the guise of a signed but not ratified Treaty.

To pretend that this President would not take this exact action without Congressional assent is simply naïve. By denying him Fast Track Authority, you make the unambiguous legal statement that his hands are tied in implementing TPP or any other non-ratified Treaty he might sign.

The undersigned groups urge you to publicly oppose granting President Obama Fast Track Authority on the TransPacific Partnership or any other Treaty in the next two years.

Signed,

Phyllis Schlafly
Founder and President
Eagle Forum

Richard Manning
President
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