

**NACo International Economic Development Task Force:
Conference Call on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) – Notes and Links**

Links for more information:

- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) TPP website: <https://ustr.gov/tpp/>
- U.S. Department of Commerce TPP website: <http://trade.gov/fta/tpp/index.asp>
- U.S. Department of State TPP website: <http://cas.state.gov/econatstate/issues/tpp/>

Brief Notes on Presentations by Ms. Karen Richardson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. State Department; and by Mr. Mitchell Ferguson, Deputy Director of Bilateral Trade, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. State Department:

- Passing TPP has been a priority for the president, since it is seen as an opportunity for global trade.
- Different types of free trade agreements (FTAs): World trade agreements vs. Bilateral trade agreements
- What is in a FTA?
 - o Provides tariff relief, but this is the smaller part
 - o Most important part of a FTA is the “rules of the road”
 - Countries agree to do certain things in a certain way
 - Harmonized regulations
 - Food safety
 - Copyrights
 - o These “rules of the road” make a more even playing field.
- TPP has the platinum standard for labor protection
 - o Includes the core elements of the International Labor Organizations
 - o The increased ability to export, as well as access to cheaper imports, are important, but the rules set forth in the TPP are the most important.
- One major concern many have with TPP is workforce development
- Globalization vs. FTAs
 - o Sometimes, we mix up the effects of globalization, which we cannot fight against, with the effects of FTAs and blame FTAs for the negative effects of globalization.
 - o Government needs to discern which it is to decide how to best help residents.
- TPP and intellectual property rights
 - o TPP, like most FTAs, requires governments to have strong mechanisms to protect intellectual property rights
 - o TPP also seeks to protect the free flow of data
- TPP and small businesses
 - o TPP is the first major FTA to have a chapter on small businesses
 - o Necessary for TPP to address small businesses especially because of e-commerce and the ease of starting a small online business.