

The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Better Protections for Human Rights Needed

Comments for Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means

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January 26, 2016

Thank you for inviting me to present my views. On behalf of Human Rights Watch, we're grateful for the opportunity to outline our concerns with the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

At the outset, I want to make clear that, in the abstract, Human Rights Watch takes no position for or against free trade and economic agreements.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, however, raises several important human rights concerns—specifically, with respect to labor rights, intellectual property, the right to health, and free expression and privacy rights on the internet. I am providing committee members with a [Q &A recently published by Human Rights Watch](#) outlining these issues. We believe that policymakers ought to consider these concerns as they consider supporting or opposing the TPP, and as they craft legislation to address the agreement.