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## Congress introduces fast track bill

On Thursday, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), along with House Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), introduced “The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015.” Co-sponsors of this trade promotion authority (TPA) measure claim that it will establish rules for international trade agreements that “boost the American economy and better jobs for American workers.”

Two such trade agreements being negotiated now could directly threaten letter carrier jobs and USPS’ affordable universal service: the World Trade Organization-sponsored trade in services agreement (TISA) and the U.S.-European Union Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP).

Also, Fast Track approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement currently being negotiated could spell the end of efforts to let USPS pursue the offering of basic financial services—leaving 68 million Americans

## Rolando speaks at Fast Track rally



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## Resolution tracker

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unbanked and at the mercy of predatory payday lenders. [Click here to read more.](#)

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## **House rejects H.R. 1563**

This week, the House of Representatives rejected the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act (H.R. 1563), which was introduced earlier this year by House Oversight and Government Reform Chair Jason Chaffetz (R-UT). The measure was brought up along with several other tax-related bills surrounding Tax Day on April 15 and was outlined by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's (R-CA) April agenda memo that dubbed this week as "Tax Freedom and Financial Independence" week.

The measure was brought to the House floor along with a series of tax-related legislation under suspension of the rules, which limits debate and requires a two-thirds vote to pass. While the bill passed by a simple vote of 266-160, it fell 17 votes shy of a two-thirds majority.

NALC members alongside the federal-postal community [took swift action to help defeat the bill](#), which suffered the same fate as it did during last Congress.

Keep up the good work and stay on guard for the next round of attacks.

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## **NALC activists continue to take our message to Capitol Hill**

Hundreds of letter carriers continue to descend on Washington, DC, to educate members of Congress on the vital services that letter carriers

provide on and off their routes to communities. The Maryland and Virginia state associations hold a lobby day every year in April to carry the NALC's legislative message to members of Congress who represent states in the mid-Atlantic region, and this week, the NALC welcomed these letter carrier activists from Maryland, Virginia and DC.



National Field Director Jeremy Goldberg provided to the more than 100 letter carrier activists in attendance a legislative update, followed by a discussion with NALC President Fredric Rolando on issues facing letter carriers.

“The timing of these annual visits could not be better,” President Rolando said. “Between drumming up support for our resolutions and fighting against continued assaults on federal employees and fast track activity, we have our hands full—but our activists continue to show that they are up for the challenge.”

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## Coming up

This week, the House and Senate named conferees to reconcile their respective budget resolutions (H. Con. Res. 27 and S. Con. Res. 8).

Ideally, both chambers would have conferenced their budget proposals by April 15; however, lawmakers are still working toward resolution.

Senate conferees include Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Rob Portman (R-OH), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), John. McCain (R-AZ), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Bob Corker (R-TN), David Perdue (R-GA), Patty Murray (D-WA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Mark Warner (D-VA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).

House conferees include Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Ranking Member Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

If you have a member of Congress who sits on the conference committee, please urge your member to reject the House-passed budget provisions that would adversely affect federal and postal employees. [Click here to read more here.](#)

#### Connect with us



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