

BEDFORD TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION  
POLITICAL ACTION REPORT – 9/19/13  
Submitted by: Mimi Warren

**Westchester Putnam Central Labor Council:**

**Trans-Pacific Partnership:** The TPP is a massive “free trade” agreement in the works between the US and 10 other countries. The TPP has been in negotiation for 5 years but you probably haven’t heard about it because those negotiations have taken place in secrecy.

Kian Frederick of the Citizens Trade Campaign, a coalition of labor, faith and community groups, spoke to the Labor Council about the devastating impact this agreement would have on the way our country does business. All of our trade laws would be subject to this agreement and would lead to additional outsourcing of American jobs, special rights for corporations, undermining of health and safety laws, weakening of environmental legislation, limiting access to affordable medicines and removing the right and ability to organize. Follow this link to find out more about the Citizens Trade Campaign:

<http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/about-ctc/what-is-citizens-trade-campaign/>

**Right now, the TPP agreement is on the Fast Track in Washington. That means Congress would give up its Constitutional right (Article 1 – Section 8 of the Constitution) to oversee and approve this monumental trade agreement.**

What can you do?? Call your Congressman/woman and tell them to vote NO on the Fast Track for the TPP and sign on to the DeLauro letter (Democratic Congress only). Follow this link for more information and a script for your phone call:

[http://action.citizen.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=12267](http://action.citizen.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=12267)

**Please call Nita Lowey, Eliot Engle and Sean Patrick Maloney before the end of next week!! The number for the Congressional switchboard is: 202-225-3121. If you reside in Ct., please find out who your Congressional Reps are and call the same switchboard #.**

Shoe Drive: the Labor Council will once again be holding the annual shoe drive which will run from now through early December. Please help our neighbors and friends by collecting gently used shoes, any style, any size but no holes! Donations collected last year went to Hurricane Sandy victims. Future recipients have yet to be finalized by the WPCLC Exec. Board. Contact Mimi Warren for more information.

**Political Endorsements:** AFL/CIO will be taking a very active role in supporting the campaign of Noam Bramson for Westchester County Executive. All are invited to attend an evening of Music and Munchies for Noam, sponsored by the Cortland Democratic Committee on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Colonial Terrace, Cortland Manor. The admission is \$7.00 per person. Please consider stopping by if you live in the

area. Also, contact Mimi Warren if you are interested in volunteering on the campaign or for more information on endorsed candidates.

**Please remember, the AFL/CIO endorses on the basis of voting record or after a candidate requests and attends an interview with Labor Council delegates - not party affiliation.**

Please visit [www.NYSUT.org](http://www.NYSUT.org) for the latest information at the state level. Most recently, testimony was presented before the New York State Senate Education Committee regarding the Regents Reform Agenda. Visit NYSUT for full text and additional information.

Please visit the MAC page to take action on a variety of issues. Please support the NY State Women's Equality Act. <https://mac.nysut.org/> If you don't, who will??

Locally, Mimi Warren and Dean Schuler (Somers Teachers) are co-chairing Senator Greg Ball's Teacher Advisory Committee. Thus far, one phone conference has taken place, focusing on the APPR process and teacher privacy. The next conference call will take place on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, with unfunded mandates leading the agenda. More information will be shared as the committee evolves.