

# NANO NEWS

## Govt confirms plans to sign TPP in Auckland

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Speaking to reporters after a meeting with President Aquino in Manila, Obama had said they discussed how to address China's provocations in disputed areas of the sea, including China's creation of new islands and construction of lighthouses, ports, military facilities and airstrips.

U.S. agriculture has a lot to gain from trade, was the central message Ambassador Darci Vetter, chief agricultural negotiator, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, had for workshop attendees at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 97th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show. "Americans pay the highest prescription drug prices in the industrialized world, and past year drug prices went up by 13 percent, more than eight times the rate of inflation". The pro-free-trade Cato Institute considers these investor protections in the TPP to be a subsidy on offshoring. Under the TPP, that would roughly double, with about 9,200 more subsidiaries getting rights to file trade claims.

"These are countries with some of the most dynamic, fastest-growing economies in the world", Earnest said. "So by opening markets, leveling the playing field, we're helping to support more good-paying jobs here in the United States, which is exactly what this is all about".

"Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said of NAFTA, "[It] is not a conventional trade agreement but the architecture of a new worldwide *system*... the vital first step for a new kind of community of nations".

But he couched his response, saying that it still might be possible to see a vote by then and, of course, it is likely in the lame-duck session after the election, as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has suggested. "There's significant pushback all over the place".

TransCanada said it is seeking compensation "as a result of the U.S. administration's breach" of its obligations under NAFTA, a deal signed by the U.S. Canada and Mexico that took effect in 1994. Only six of the 30 TPP chapters deal with traditional trade matters such as tariffs. Even before Obama's speech Tuesday, he was already working hard to undercut the TPP.

It opens up trade between members but makes trade more hard with non-members through a process known as "cumulative rules of origin" where members lose privileges if they source inputs from countries outside the TPP.

However trade between member and non-members states will be more hard under the "cumulative rules of origin". The promise of the TPP for soybean farmers is too great to accept

anything less, and we are very encouraged to hear the president continue his focus on the TPP in the year to come.

“Australia is one of the major investors in the United States”, he said.

Obama announced the conclusion of the TPP deal back in October and sent the trade agreement to US Congress for ratification. “Approve this agreement. Give us the tools to enforce it”, Obama said. But any changes would force the Obama administration to reopen negotiations with its 11 partners – a nonstarter with the White House.

The TPP also brings trade and investment into the modern, digital age.

It says: “Much will depend on whether the TPP is quickly adopted and effectively implemented, and whether it triggers productive reforms in developing and developed countries”.