



## **Hillary Clinton comes out against TPP**

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"I think it puts Biden in a real bind", said Democratic political strategist Peter Fenn, noting that Biden has been tasked by the president with the job of selling the 12-country trade deal to a deeply divided Congress.

She said trade agreements can look good on paper, but not so much in reality. The deal, which must be approved by the US Congress, has faced skepticism from lawmakers. In her memoir, "Hard Choices", Clinton wrote that while it "won't be perfect" any such pact "should benefit American businesses and workers".

It's controversial and strongly opposed by many Democrats because of fears over TPP's impact on labour standards, environmental protections, and local jobs. The free trade deal backed by the administration has been opposed by liberal Democrats and labour unions. However, Clinton said, "But the bar here is very high and, based on what I have seen, I don't believe this agreement has met it".

Clinton said she also has reservations because the deal doesn't address currency manipulation and because it appears that "the pharmaceutical companies may have gotten more benefits, and patients and consumers fewer".

As secretary of state, Clinton helped lay the foundations for the deal and lauded the TPP as the 'gold standard in trade agreements'.

Clinton's statement represents a departure from her past opinions on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Hillary Clinton holds up a doll that was handed to her from the audience this week at a campaign stop in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

"It's a bit of a tell tale the wind is blowing in a certain direction and she's fairly adept at monitoring sentiment and changes tact", said Dan Ikenson, director of trade policy studies at the free market Cato Institute in Washington.

He has been a sharp critic of what he calls Obama's "disastrous" Trans-Pacific Partnership, an ambitious trade pact involving the United States and 11 other nations, and vows to "do all that I can" to thwart the agreement in the Senate. She has come out against approving the Keystone XL pipeline - which, as secretary of state, she was personally responsible for investigating - a decision the Obama White House has yet to make.

Hillary Clinton has broken ranks with Barack Obama and criticized the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, saying it will not do enough to create American jobs or "advance our national security".

With a deal reached and the first Democratic debate set for Tuesday, Clinton had been in a bind to say where she stands.

That's after the presidential and congressional elections, and before the new Congress takes office. Mrs. Clinton could be digging her trenches now, before the battle commences.

Then she stepped from the White House and into 2016 presidential politics and struck a more reserved and slightly skeptical tone, withholding a clear opinion on the deal. Despite her status as a frontrunner status in the Democratic primary, her role in negotiating the deal as Secretary of State has hurt her reputation with the AFL-CIO and earned the ire of union rank-and-file.