



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

NEWS from Fire Fighters

1750 NEW YORK AVE NW WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 • WWW.IAFF.ORG

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Contact: Tim Burn
(202) 230-7167

Statement on Congress' Plan to Hijack Fire Fighter Retirement Legislation for Trade Agenda

Washington, DC – This morning, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) General President Harold Schaitberger issued this statement on Congress' plan to hold fire fighter retirement hostage for Trade Promotion Authority agenda.

“Shame, Shame, Shame.

“Today’s plan to tie the fast-track Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and TransPacific Partnership (TPP) bill to legislation protecting professional fire fighters’ retirement benefits is a new low. H.R. 2146, the Defending Public Safety Employees Retirement Act, passed the House by an overwhelming margin, and passed the Senate unanimously. House Republicans are taking advantage of the need for a technical amendment to the bill to once again attempt to force through their failed trade agenda.

“The House has already spoken. The TransPacific Partnership is bad for workers and does nothing to grow the middle class. It is nothing more than a gift to global corporations and the ultra-rich, leaving hard-working Americans and American communities economically devastated.

“These tactics fool no one. The House must reject this parliamentary trickery, reject the TPA and allow the peoples’ voices to be heard.”

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The International Association of Fire Fighters, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the leading advocate in North America for the safety and training of fire fighters and paramedics and represents more than 300,000 full-time professional fire fighters and paramedics who protect communities in every state and throughout Canada. More information is available at www.iaff.org.