

People Defeated the TPP

- **The TPP was designed as a much larger more comprehensive and powerful version of NAFTA.** The twelve country, 30 chapter agreement was negotiated in secret, with the assistance of over 500 corporate “advisors” while civil society, labor and most environmental interests were virtually shut out. Like NAFTA, the TPP was less about trade and much more about consolidating corporate power over people and their governments so they can go wherever and do whatever they want (think fracking). TPP employed NAFTA-like corporate tribunals with the power to overrule national laws and courts. Public policies from the federal level on down to local zoning ordinances could be challenged by multi-national corporations and overruled by corporate tribunals staffed by corporate lawyers.
- **Years of international grassroots opposition eventually defeated the TPP.** President Obama worked very hard to pass the agreement yet was unable to muster enough votes in the House of Representatives.
- **The Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center was part of a national network of citizens and civic organizations that defeated the TPP.** Citizen groups and organizations informed and organized to pressure elected representatives to not vote for the TPP. Mr. Polis never took an official position on the TPP.
- **Congressman Polis’ remained an unofficial supporter of the TPP** throughout President Obama’s campaign to pass the agreement. He was the only Democrat from Colorado to vote for ‘fast track’ authority, which is designed to grease the skids for up-or-down trade agreement approvals. More pressure will be needed to move Mr. Polis away from the corporate free trade model embodied in the TPP and NAFTA toward a concept of *fair* trade that benefits all citizens, respects democracy, protects workers and prevents or mitigates environmental impacts.
- **Bigger and more powerful multi-lateral corporate-friendly trade deals are in the works** and many bad trade deals including NAFTA are still in effect. There is much more citizens can do in the fight for fair trade that benefits everyone and preserves our environment.