

trans-national corporations. It would allow corporations to sue governments for regulations protecting people, communities and the environment. It would allow them to expand the monopoly on pharmacy patents and it would allow for the blocking of websites accused of violating copyright laws.

The Obama administration, on behalf of the U.S., with the backing of the most

powerful 600 corporations, has been pushing for the TPP's harshest intellectual property laws. To put it bluntly, the TPP would sacrifice national sovereignty, public health and internet freedom, all in the name of keeping CEOs' wallets fat and their shareholders happy.

As Julian Assange puts it: "If instituted, the TPP's intellectual property regime would trample over individual rights and

free expression, as well as run roughshod over intellectual and creative commons. If you read, write, publish, think, listen, dance, sing or invent; if you farm or consume your food; if you're ill now or might one day be ill, the TPP has you in its crosshairs."

With this in mind, it's no wonder Obama wants this agreement passed in secret. To do so he has been trying to use a special legislative trick called fast tracking

that allows only a simple majority vote; no amendments can be made by Republicans or Democrats. Bipartisan lawmakers are banding together to call for an open debate on the TPP and wanting Obama to hold back on fast-track powers — powers the president does not have since their expiration in 2012.

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