

## **How To: Engage in “Social Media Bird-Dogging”**

### **So What Exactly is “Social Media Bird-Dogging”? That Sounds Made Up...**

Social media bird-dogging is a lot like traditional bird-dogging, except that you aren't confined to one time and place. Instead of going to a town hall meeting or public event where your representative is appearing, the platforms for social media bird-dogging are Facebook and Twitter. Post pointed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Fast Track questions directly on your representative's Facebook posts. Flood your representative's twitter account with tweets about the TPP and Fast Track.

Social media bird-dogging allows you to get your questions and comments out there without having to leave your home. But, in order for it to work, you need to keep a steady stream of tweets going and continuously comment on new posts. You also need to make sure that your friends do the same. The more people who participate in the social media bird-dogging, the more likely the message will be heard *and* taken into account.

Another benefit of social media bird-dogging is that you don't have to limit yourself to targeting your representative. You can reach out to as many representatives that you want, whether you live in his or her district or not.

Social media bird-dogging can also be used to get the attention of local and national media. If your local newspaper, radio station, or TV news isn't covering the TPP and Fast Track, then let them know that they should. Again, the more people who do this and the more often they post or tweet, the stronger the message will be.

### **Example Facebook Questions/Comments for Representatives**

- 151 House Democrats signed on to the DeLauro-Miller letter opposing Fast Track trade authority? But you didn't. Why do you want to give away your ability to ensure that trade agreements are in the best interest of your district?
- Fast Track steamrolls the checks and balances laid out in our Constitution. Please join 190 of your republican and democrat colleagues in making a commitment to vote against Fast Track.
- Please save us from the Trans-Pacific Partnership! Do not give away your trade authority. Vote no on Fast Track!
- Save us from the fast track to lost jobs. Commit to voting no on Fast Track trade authority.
- Save us from the fast track to supermarkets flooded with unsafe food products. Commit to voting no on Fast Track trade authority.
- Save us from the fast track to unaffordable medications. Commit to voting no on Fast Track trade authority.
- Save us from the fast track to lost internet freedom. Commit to voting no on Fast Track trade authority.
- Congress should vet every word of the Trans-Pacific treaty for its impact on American families and eliminate every special deal inserted by corporate lobbyists hidden in the fine print. Please make a commitment to voting against Fast Track trade authority.

- Don't pull a fast one on American workers with "Fast Track" legislation that locks us into a trade agreement before Congress even votes on it, and prevents members of Congress from amending it to make sure every provision is in the best interest of American families.
- "Fast Track" legislation derails the job Congress is supposed to do: making sure every provision of every treaty – starting with the Trans-Pacific Partnership – is in the interest of American families, not a partnership between big corporations and big profits. Vote no on Fast Track trade authority.
- "Fast Track" legislation means trade agreements get railroaded through Congress with all of us tied to the tracks. Commit to voting NO on Fast Track trade authority!
- Fast Track would derail the American economy and ship American jobs and standards over the cliff. Why would you not do everything in your power to stop this from happening?
- Over 500 U.S. trade agreements have been enacted since 1974, when Nixon first introduced us to Fast Track. Only 16 of these trade agreements were passed using Fast Track, including NAFTA and the WTO. Good trade agreements don't need Fast Track to pass.

### **Example Tweets for Representatives**

- Huge majority of House Democrats oppose giving away their constitutional authority to Fast Track [#TPP](#). Why aren't you one of them?
- Good trade agreements don't need [#FastTrack](#). Only 16, including NAFTA and WTO, used it. Over 500 passed w/o it. [#NoFastTrack](#)
- [#FastTrack](#) derails Congress' responsibility to ensure [#TPP](#) benefits American families, not big corporations. [#NoFastTrack](#)
- [#FastTrack](#) would derail American economy and ship jobs overseas. Do everything in your power to stop this from happening.
- [#FastTrack](#) means [#TPP](#) gets railroaded through Congress with all of us tied to the tracks. Vote NO on Fast Track!

### **Example Facebook Questions/Comments for Media Outlets**

- According to the text posted on wikileaks, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) would allow patents on surgical and treatment methods. If a doctor violates such a patent, even if doing so saved a life, they could face a lawsuit. Fast Track Trade Authority would allow the TPP to happen. Why aren't you covering this?!
- 190 House democrats and republicans have made a commitment to vote NO on Fast Track. Please increase your coverage of the one thing that dems and the GOP can agree on!
- Fast Track steamrolls the checks and balances laid out in the Constitution, but President Obama is pushing for it anyway. Don't you think this is newsworthy?
- If the Trans-Pacific Partnership is Fast Tracked, people will lose their jobs. So why aren't we hearing about this in your paper/on your show?
- Politicians are pulling a fast one on American workers with "Fast Track" legislation that locks us into a trade agreement before Congress even votes on it, and prevents members of Congress from amending it to make sure every provision is in the best interest of American families. This needs more coverage!
- Congress should vet every word of the Trans-Pacific treaty for its impact on American families and eliminate every special deal inserted by corporate lobbyists hidden in the fine print. But Fast Track would do the opposite. You need to cover this story!

- Julian Assange says “If you read, write, publish, think, listen, dance, sing or invent; if you farm or consume food; if you’re ill now or might one day be ill, the TPP has you in its crosshairs.” And Fast Track is how the TPP will become a reality. This needs coverage ASAP!

### **Example Tweets for Media Outlets**

- 190 House Democrats and Republicans commit to vote NO on [#FastTrack](#). Cover this bipartisan issue!
- Politicians pulling fast one on American workers w/ [#FastTrack](#) for [#TPP](#). This needs more coverage!
- If [#TPP](#) gets [#FastTrack](#), people will lose their jobs. Why aren’t we hearing about this in your paper/on your show?
- Congress should vet [#TPP](#) for its impact on American families and gifts to big corporations. Cover this story! [#NoFastTrack](#)
- [#FastTrack](#) steamrolls checks and balances laid out in Constitution, but Pres. Obama is pushing for it. Newsworthy, right?

### **Good Links to Include in Posts and Tweets**

- [www.ExposeTheTPP.org](http://www.ExposeTheTPP.org)
- [www.exposethetpp.org/TPPImpactsYou.html](http://www.exposethetpp.org/TPPImpactsYou.html)
- [http://www.exposethetpp.org/DeLauro\\_Fast\\_Track\\_Letter.pdf](http://www.exposethetpp.org/DeLauro_Fast_Track_Letter.pdf)
- <http://jones.house.gov/sites/jones.house.gov/files/11.12.13%20Fast%20Track%20Letter.pdf>
- [http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CivilSocietyLetteronFastTrackandTPP\\_030413.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CivilSocietyLetteronFastTrackandTPP_030413.pdf)
- [http://www.exposethetpp.org/Leaked\\_TPP\\_IP\\_chapter.pdf](http://www.exposethetpp.org/Leaked_TPP_IP_chapter.pdf)
- [www.citizen.org/TPP](http://www.citizen.org/TPP)
- [www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/trade-policies/tpp-potential-trade-policy-problems/](http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/trade-policies/tpp-potential-trade-policy-problems/)
- [www.eff.org/issues/tpp](http://www.eff.org/issues/tpp)
- <http://www.sierraclub.org/trade/trans-pacific-partnership-agreement.aspx>
- [www.FlushTheTPP.org](http://www.FlushTheTPP.org)

### **What to Do When You Get a Response**

We want to know what you’re doing and what happens as a result. This is extremely important for developing and coordinating strategy and messaging. Please send any responses you get from representatives and the media to [ExposeTheTPP@citizen.org](mailto:ExposeTheTPP@citizen.org).

**Thanks and happy social media bird-dogging!**