

Citizen Perspectives on the TPP

Reilly Yeo
Community Engagement Specialist, OpenMedia

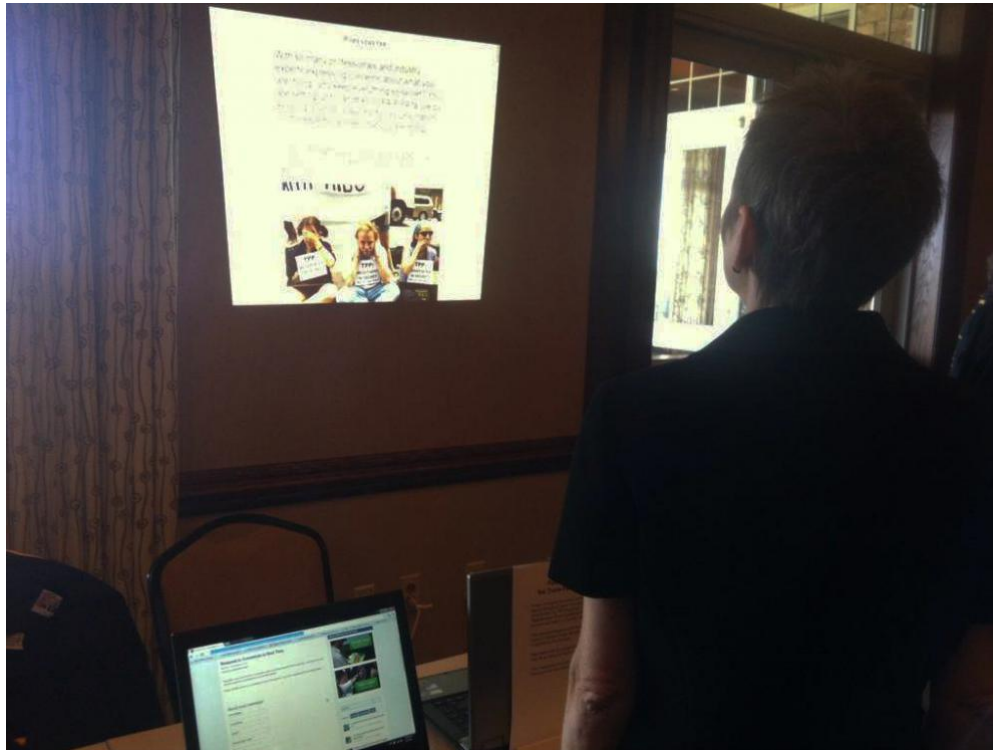
the possibilities of the open Internet

take a moment to reflect: what does this
mean to you?



Over 15,000 people from around the world submitted comments in December of 2012 and July-August of 2013

Sharing citizen comments with negotiators



openmedia.org/digitalfuture

How would you rank the priorities below if you were developing copyright laws? **Drag the items below** to rank them in order of priority from top to bottom.

Copyright priorities:

1	Protecting free expression
2	Clear and simple rules
3	Rules made democratically
4	Compensation for creators & artists
5	Protection for media conglomerates
6	Privacy Safeguards

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The majority of the ~40,000 survey respondents would rank “Protecting Free Expression” as their first priority for copyright law.



We define online free expression as **the right to express oneself on the Internet, which also includes seeking and circulating ideas online.**

Based on The Universal Declaration of Human Rights "...this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to **seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.**"



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74.8% voted for “Design copyright laws by following Finland’s example, launching a participatory multi-stakeholder process that involves the general public, including Internet users and creators as well as copyright law experts”

only 0.6% favoured a process like the TPP.

**WE'RE MEETING WITH
TPP NEGOTIATORS.**

What should
we say?

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Five Overlapping Themes

1. Protect free expression
2. Respect democratic processes
3. Limit the influence of Big Media
4. Oppose secrecy
5. Protect the digital commons

Over 19,000 Comments

Theme 1: Protect free expression

“Please keep the Internet the open public forum it is today. **Under the TPP as proposed, corporations and governments would have too much power to shut off public discussion, debate, and innovation. This would harm democracy, consumers, and freedom.** Stop the secret negotiations and don't give away our future to corporate exploitation for profit.”

- Bruce

“This entire affair amounts to forcing the users of several nations to pay more for the privilege of receiving less content, and only receiving that content under the constant threat of having their communications services removed, if they view something unapproved. This is entirely unacceptable, and frankly, will not be tolerated.”

- Michael

“Please listen to the millions of Internet users and allow the Internet to be the tool that people want it to be - without penalties or censorship.”

-Laureen

Theme 2: Respect democratic processes

“It is impossible to support the TPP or any government involved in its creation because I, as an ordinary citizen, don't know any of the details because it has been negotiated outside of the normal democratic process. I understand the need to protect the rights that individuals and companies have over their creative work, but allowing them to dictate the rules without public input is undemocratic. There needs to be oversight for this legislation to be taken seriously.”

- Phillip

Theme 3: Limit the influence of Big Media companies

“The TPP affects everyday people, none of whom had any say with regards to the agreement. **Parts of it are essentially intended to protect the interests of multinational media conglomerates, protecting their enormous profits, as opposed to having them update their business model so as to provide better value for money service to their clients.**”

- Roberto

“This type of censorship will limit new companies from entering the market and only strengthen the existing companies out there, creating a monopoly that will inevitably place heavy constraints on any countries economic growth. The secrecy of these negotiations is obviously instigated by multinational corporations to control freedom of speech and in the interest of their profits **leaving small business unable to compete on a level playing field.**”

- Rudi

“While I accept some secrecy is important in trade talks, what is emerging is concerning. **The internet should not reflect the very uneven playing field exhibited in the real world, as that would stifle creativity and economies. Think of the gains we’ve had from internet entrepreneurship and the jobs created as a result. Would you like more of that—or stifle this medium and have less?”**

- Jack

Theme 4: Oppose secrecy

“TPP is being negotiated in secrecy, so it is difficult to get a meaningful open debate about it. **The argument is that it is easier for the parties involved to come to an agreement that way, but it also makes the process very risky. This secrecy undermines every democratic principle I can think of.**”

- Jon

“It is amoral, and frankly reprehensible, for a nation to sign onto any international treaty and agreement without giving all citizens who will be subject to that agreement an opportunity to review its terms. **I strongly suspect that I will oppose the contents of the TPP, but until I know what they are I oppose them on principle, and will make every effort to resist any changes to law that result from its ratification.**”

- Harry

Theme 5: Protect the digital commons

“Any system used by multi-millions of people all around the world is essentially a public/community system. Therefore regulation of that system must be determined by a majority of the users and for the benefit of the users. The users/public cannot provide input to the regulatory process unless they are aware of all the details being considered for that regulation.”

- Lou

“We, the users, have built the Internet into the wonderful communication tool that it is. Don't stand in our way, as we continue to make it even more awesome.”

- Carl



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