



The DC LERA Board of Governors invites you to the monthly luncheon meeting Wednesday, November 19, 2014...

The Pending Trade Deals: Risks, Opportunities, and Potential Power Shifts

Guest Speaker Thea Lee
Deputy Chief of Staff, AFL-CIO



The **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)** is a proposed free-trade agreement between the European Union and the United States. The European Commission claims that passage of the pact could boost trade between the two blocs by as much as 50%. Critics say the TTIP would increase corporate power and make it more difficult for governments to regulate markets for public benefit.

The **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** would eliminate tariffs on goods and services and generally harmonize dozens of regulations that can often complicate doing business around the Pacific Rim. Its supporters say that the TPP free-trade zone would counter China's power in the region. Critics argue the TPP would not release the U.S. trade from dependence on China. The Mainland would simply join the open-to-all Partnership.

"Fast track" is yet another source of controversy. The TPP bill currently in Congress would renew the broad authority of the President to negotiate and sign trade agreements subject to only "up or down" votes by Congress. Unsurprisingly, Congress objects to being shorn of its power to affect trade policy.

The \$64 question is: What is the likely impact of these mega-trade agreements on U.S. workers, wages, and jobs? The Officers and Board of Directors of DC LERA are pleased to invite you to join that discussion on November 19th with our luncheon speaker, Ms. **Thea Lee**. Ms. Lee is a nationally known expert on the economics and politics of international trade. She is currently deputy chief of staff at the AFL-CIO HQ, where she has also served as policy director and chief international economist. She was previously an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, where her research projects included the North American Free Trade Agreement and the impact of international trade on U.S. wage inequality. Ms. Lee received a bachelors degree from Smith College and a masters degree in economics from the University of Michigan.

Please RSVP and share news of this program with your colleagues.

Delicious lunch: Buffet with salad, choice of two entrées, vegetarian options (let us know when you register), sides, choice of dessert, plus coffee/iced/tea. Cash wine service.

Time: Sign-in: 11:30; Lunch: 12:00; Program & Q&A: 12:30; Adjourn 1:30. **Program begins at 12:30.**

Venue: Woman's National Democratic Club located in the historic Whittemore House at 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, just one block from Dupont Circle and its Red Line Metro station.

Price: Members \$25, Guest of Members \$25, Non-members \$30, Students \$15.

Sign up and pay online: www.dclera.org or **pay at the door:** *Email* name & contact info to Natalie Myers at nmeyers@dws-consultants.com or **phone:** 410-893-4094 and leave name and contact info on voice mail.