

## TPP Trade Officials Received Hefty Bonuses From Big Banks

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*How surprising! Surely, it should now be obvious that corporate and banker owned politicians and officials are anything but representative; clearly they serve corporatist interests, which as we all know are NOT representative of the democratic MAJORITY. Political betrayal of democracy notwithstanding, it is clear that unrepresentative elite interests are interfering with the democratic process, a CRIME in most democratic nations. A full inquiry into this unsavoury 'state of affairs' is absolutely necessary and a clean sweep of bought officials and corrupt politicians infecting OUR democracy should follow.*



Officials tapped by the Obama administration to lead the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations have received multimillion dollar bonuses from CitiGroup and Bank of America, financial disclosures obtained by Republic Report show.

Stefan Selig, a Bank of America investment banker nominated to become the Under Secretary for International Trade at the Department of Commerce, received more than [\\$9 million in bonus pay](#) as he was nominated to join the administration in November. The bonus pay came in addition to the \$5.1 million in incentive pay awarded to Selig last year.

Michael Froman, the current U.S. Trade Representative, received [over \\$4 million](#) as part of multiple exit payments when he left CitiGroup to join the Obama administration. Froman told Senate Finance Committee members last summer that he donated approximately 75 percent of the \$2.25 million bonus he received for his work in 2008 to charity. CitiGroup also gave Froman a \$2 million payment in connection to his [holdings](#) in two investment funds, which was [awarded](#) “in recognition of [Froman’s] service to Citi in various capacities since 1999.”

Many large corporations with a strong incentive to influence public policy award bonuses and other incentive pay to executives if they take jobs within the government. CitiGroup, for instance, [provides](#) an executive contract that awards additional retirement pay upon leaving to take a “full time high level position with the U.S. government or regulatory body.” Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase, the Blackstone Group, Fannie Mae, Northern Trust, and Northrop Grumman are among the [other firms](#) that offer financial rewards upon retirement for government service.

Froman joined the administration in 2009. Selig is currently awaiting Senate confirmation before he can take his post, which [collaborates](#) with the trade officials to support the TPP.

The controversial TPP trade deal has rankled activists for containing provisions that would newly empower corporations to sue governments in ad hoc arbitration tribunals to demand compensation from governments for laws and regulations they claim undermine their business interests. Leaked TPP negotiation [documents](#) show the Obama administration is seeking to prevent foreign governments from issuing a broad variety of financial rules designed to stem another bank crisis.

A leaked text of the TPP's investment chapter shows that the pact would include the controversial investor-state dispute resolution system. A fact-sheet [provided](#) by Public Citizen explains how multi-national corporations may use the TPP deal to skirt domestic courts and local laws. The arrangement would allow corporations to go after governments before foreign tribunals to demand compensations for tobacco, prescription drug and environment protections that they claim would undermine their expected future profits. Last year, Senator Elizabeth Warren [warned](#) that trade agreements such as the TPP provide "a chance for these banks to get something done quietly out of sight that they could not accomplish in a public place with the cameras rolling and the lights on."

Others have raised similar alarm.

"Not only do US treaties mandate that all forms of finance move across borders freely and without delay, but deals such as the TPP would allow private investors to directly file claims against governments that regulate them, as opposed to a WTO-like system where nation states (ie the regulators) decide whether claims are brought," [notes](#) Boston University associate professor Kevin Gallagher.



<http://www.republicreport.org/2014/big-banks-tpp/>

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