Taking People’s Power Away

The main “harm” from keeping the Treaty of Waitangi clause for electricity privatization is that foreign investors would not understand it, which would “create uncertainty and have a negative effect on investment in the companies” — John Key’s government.

Q. When does honoring a treaty matter?
A. When it is with foreign investors.

Q. When doesn’t te tiriti matter?
A. When it is with Maori!

If they have their way, we can forget about:
- Saying no to mining
- Return of stolen resources
- Tiriti vetting of foreign investment
- Stopping foreign ownership of taonga
- Maori music quotas for radio & TV
- Real kaitiakitanga over resources
- Banning smoking or pokies
- Sovereignty, tino rangatiratanga & democracy

What can we do?

- **Spread the word** around all your networks, facebook pages, websites and media
- **Organise action** and meetings around the TPPA
- **Ask your MPs, iwi leaders and local government** if they know what’s going on and what they are going to do to stop the TPPA
- **Demand a government inquiry** to bring negotiations into daylight

**Remember that**
every day can be Waitangi Day …
**but not with a TPPA**

How can we find out more?


Add your name to the list of New Zealanders opposing the TPPA and sign up to receive the TPP Watch bulletin:
http://tppwatch.org/what-can-we-do/register-your-support/

Join the TPPA Action Group facebook page (link from www.tppwatch.org).

Leaflet prepared for Waitangi Day 2012 by TPP Watch
What is the TPPA?
A treaty the NZ government is negotiating a Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement with eight other countries, including the US.

Moana Maniapoto, Musician.
Intellectual property laws meant I couldn’t use my own name to sing in Germany! Then I discovered that Ford, Sony and other US companies had exclusive rights over Maori language, cultural icons and other taonga that were guaranteed in our own Treaty. A TPPA will make that ten times worse. We need to protect our unique culture, environment and land for the next generation. It’s in all our interests to say Taihoa.

What would it mean for us?
A power grab by US and other investors. They would get huge influence over NZ policies that they don’t like, and the power to sue the government in secret offshore courts if new policies hurt their value.

Annette Sykes, President of MANA Movement.
The Tiriti provision of the SOE Act is a shield to stop Crown actions that breach Treaty principles. John Key says he doesn’t want to keep this protection for the privatisations because foreign investors need certainty. Worse, he plans to sign us up to free trade treaties that give foreign investors enforceable rights to protect their property, something that tangata whenua have never had. They put a Treaty protection in these agreements, but they only operate if the Crown wants them to – which Key has made clear that it doesn’t!

The Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) will take this hypocrisy to a whole new level and dilute our sovereignty and deny the tino rangatiratanga of Māori in favour of foreign investors. To honour the Treaty we must oppose the TPPA. We must fight for the freedoms that Te Tiriti guarantees, our MANA as a Nation to be prioritised in all we do.

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Hone Harawira MP, Mana Movement leader.
NZ governments fall over themselves to sign free trade agreements where foreign multibillion dollar corporates come first and indigenous peoples and the Treaty of Waitangi come last. We all remember the savage impact of trade liberalization on workers, particularly Māori in manufacturing jobs; now a TPPA threatens open season on assets, plunder of intellectual and cultural heritage, and health care only the rich can afford. Is this the Aotearoa we want?

Mike Smith, Maori rights activist
The government’s relentless privatisation agenda continues eroding the status of Māori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa, the planned removal of section 9 of the SOE Act to facilitate selling state assets being the latest in a long series of series of policies intended to extinguish the governments responsibilities to the Māori people to protect our interests. The Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement is by far the most significant attack on not only Māori rights but also the economic sovereignty of all citizens.

The combination of climate change, fossil fuel shortages and an increasingly unstable world economy point to a very uncertain future for humanity, rather than surrender the control of our resources to the perpetrators of these catastrophic events, we must exert all efforts to overturn this agreement in favour of maintaining the democratic control of our countries economy by its own citizens if we are to have any chance of building the sustainable alternatives required to adjust to a radically changing world.