

Beat: Politics

EIIZABETH WARREN FIRES BACK AT OBAMA ON TRADE

THE SENATOR RESPONDS WITH BLOG POST

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USPA NEWS - Sen. Elizabeth Warren shot back at President Obama on trade, blowing wide open an intra-party Democratic spat between its labor and business camps.

A day after Obama called Warren “wrong” on trade, the Massachusetts senator and favorite of liberals responded with a blog post defending her stance on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (known as TPP) that the administration is trying to reach with 11 Asian-Pacific nations.

Warren is careful not to direct her comments at Obama, but it’s unmistakable who she is speaking to following comments he made Tuesday in an interview with MSNBC. One of Warren’s arguments: The devil is in the details and they’re not available for public consumption.

She wrote:

The Administration says I’m wrong ““ that there’s nothing to worry about. They say the deal is nearly done, and they are making a lot of promises about how the deal will affect workers, the environment, and human rights. Promises ““ but people like you can’t see the actual deal.

Obama and other supporters of the massive trade pact say it is good for the U.S. economy. “Everything I do has been focused on how do we make sure the middle class is getting a fair deal,” Obama told MSNBC’s Chris Matthews.

Warren and other opponents of the trade deal, such as labor unions, say the TPP and the “fast-track” authority that goes with it would only help the rich and hurt American workers. Under fast-track authority ““ which still must pass the U.S. House and Senate ““ Congress could only approve or reject any trade deal and not make any changes.

In a message urging her supporters to sign a petition against the trade deal, Warren implored: “when giant corporations get to see the details and the American people don’t, we all lose. Let’s level the playing field: No vote on fast-tracking trade until the public can read the TPP deal.

The Democratic feud over trade is already part of the 2016 presidential campaign. Hillary Clinton, the party’s leading contender, hedged on the Trans-Pacific Partnership when asked about it in New Hampshire. She’s been getting heat from Martin O’Malley and Bernie Sanders, potential rivals for the presidency, and supporters of Warren, who has said she’s not interested in seeking the White House.

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