

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION expressing the Seattle City Council's opposition to Trade Promotion Authority (“Fast Track”) and strong concerns about draft elements of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

..body

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is committed to international trade that fosters economic growth and high standards for labor, our environment, and public health; and

WHEREAS, Washington is a trade dependent state in which at least 40% of jobs are directly or indirectly related to international trade, and in the last decade Washington exports grew 176 percent, from \$29.6 billion in 2004 to \$81.6 billion in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Seattle is home to the Port of Seattle, the Trade Development Alliance, and scores of internationally-successful companies employing our people and heightening Seattle’s interest in the TPP and Congressional “Fast Track” authority; and

WHEREAS, the TPP will likely involve policy matters related to intellectual property, labor, human rights, agriculture, natural resources, the environment, government procurement, financial services, healthcare, telecommunications, energy, and others, all important to our city, other local jurisdictions, and Washington State; and

WHEREAS, fair trade should promote the creation of family-wage jobs, encourage shared prosperity, protect our environment, ensure the safety of food and other products, revitalize manufacturing, and ensure local governments can regulate for high standards;

WHEREAS, the TPP, like other international trade deals, is being negotiated in closed-door negotiating sessions between the United States and 11 Pacific Rim nations and has not been made available to the public or state and local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 the Seattle City Council issued a resolution opposing the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investments, which contained investment provisions similar to those contained in the proposed TPP, as described below; and

WHEREAS, the Investment Chapter of the TPP, leaked in 2012, includes “Investor-State Dispute Settlement” provisions that could undermine current local and national environmental safeguards and constrain future climate policy; and

1 WHEREAS, early drafts of the Investment Chapter of the TPP would allow foreign corporations
2 to sue the U.S. for damages over any law or regulation which they believe would reduce
3 their future profits, and the City of Seattle would have no right or ability to represent its
4 interests before these foreign tribunals; and
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6 WHEREAS, the draft TPP threatens segments of Seattle's work force by forcing the U.S to
7 waive "Buy American" or "Buy Local" requirements, and by reducing risks and offering
8 incentives to corporations that off-shore U.S. jobs; and
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10 WHEREAS, local, state and federal environmental and food safety rules could be challenged by
11 foreign corporations as "illegal trade barriers" if they are held to be at a higher standard
12 than standards in the TPP, thus threatening the health of our residents; and
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14 WHEREAS, though the draft TPP would not change U.S. patent law, Seattle residents could be
15 harmed by the intellectual property sections of the draft TPP providing international
16 pharmaceutical firms and others with longer, tighter control of patents, possibly increasing
17 medicine prices and limiting access to cheaper generic drugs; and
18

19 WHEREAS, members of Congress, including Congressman Jim McDermott of Seattle, signed
20 letters in 2012 and 2013, calling on our trade representatives to consult with Congress to
21 pursue a more transparent and inclusive legislative process for consideration of the TPP;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, in a letter dated December 3, 2014, Governor Jay Inslee urged the United States
25 government to take a lead role in establishing trade rules that address emerging issues and
26 challenges in international trade, including foreign restrictions on cross-border data flows,
27 improved protections of intellectual property rights, and improved international regulatory
28 cooperation; and
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30 WHEREAS, Governor Inslee also cautioned that in its current form the liabilities of investor-
31 state provisions outweigh their potential value, urging our trade representatives to maintain
32 strong support of protecting state and local regulations over trade rules, with the interest of
33 expanding our state's leading economic sectors, while including enforceable labor and
34 environmental provisions in trade agreements; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the President has asked Congress to approve the TPP under "Fast Track" procedural
37 rules, which limit our Congressional representatives' ability to adequately review, debate
38 and amend the TPP and make a determination as to whether the TPP is in the best
39 interests of the American people and our local residents. NOW, THEREFORE,
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1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THAT:**

2 Section 1. The Seattle City Council opposes “Fast Track” authority for the TPP, and
3 instead requests that the President and Congress carry out a fully transparent and inclusive
4 legislative process for consideration of the TPP.
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6 Section 2. The Seattle City Council urges President Obama and U.S. Trade
7 Representative Michael Froman to negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership to advance the
8 interests of workers, to maintain the sovereignty of local governments, to safeguard our
9 environment, to improve the quality of life in all countries that are signatory to the agreement,
10 and to ensure the absolute sovereignty of U. S. courts and not agree to arbitration outside of the
11 normal judicial process.
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13 Section 3. If these principles are not adequately addressed in the final Trans-Pacific
14 Partnership Agreement, the Seattle City Council will urge our Congressional delegation to vote
15 to reject this trade agreement.
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18 Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2015, and
19 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
20 of _____, 2015.

21 _____
22 President _____ of the City Council
23

24 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2015.

25 _____
26 _____
27 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk
28

29 (Seal)