

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

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3 ..title

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

7 ~~A RESOLUTION expressing the Seattle City Council's opposition to the proposed Trans-Pacific~~  
8 ~~Partnership due to its negative impact on the City's ability to protect our environment and~~  
9 ~~to act in the best interests of our residents, our work force, and our local businesses.~~

10 ..body

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

13 WHEREAS, Washington is a trade dependent state in which at least 40% of jobs are directly or  
14 indirectly related to international trade, and in the last decade Washington exports grew  
15 176 percent, from \$29.6 billion in 2004 to \$81.6 billion in 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, Seattle is home to the Port of Seattle, the Trade Development Alliance, and scores  
17 of internationally-successful companies employing our people and heightening Seattle's  
18 interest in the TPP and Congressional "Fast Track" authority; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, the TPP, like other international trade deals, is being negotiated in closed-door  
27 negotiating sessions between the United States and 11 Pacific Rim nations and has not  
28 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

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

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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

5 WHEREAS, the draft TPP threatens segments of Seattle's work force by forcing the U.S to  
6 waive "Buy American" or "Buy Local" requirements, and by reducing risks and offering  
7 incentives to corporations that off-shore U.S. jobs; and

8 WHEREAS, local, state and federal environmental and food safety rules could be challenged by  
9 foreign corporations as "illegal trade barriers" if they are held to be at a higher standard  
10 than standards in the TPP, thus threatening the health of our residents; and

11 WHEREAS, though the draft TPP would not change U.S. patent law, Seattle residents could be  
12 harmed by the intellectual property sections of the draft TPP providing international  
13 pharmaceutical firms and others with longer, tighter control of patents, possibly increasing  
14 medicine prices and limiting access to cheaper generic drugs; and

15 WHEREAS, members of Congress, including Congressman Jim McDermott of Seattle, signed  
16 letters in 2012 and 2013, calling on our trade representatives to consult with Congress to  
17 pursue a more transparent and inclusive legislative process for consideration of the TPP;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, in a letter dated December 3, 2014, Governor Jay Inslee urged the United States  
20 government to take a lead role in establishing trade rules that address emerging issues and  
21 challenges in international trade, including foreign restrictions on cross-border data flows,  
22 improved protections of intellectual property rights, and improved international regulatory  
23 cooperation; and

24 WHEREAS, Governor Inslee also cautioned that in its current form the liabilities of investor-  
25 state provisions outweigh their potential value, urging our trade representatives to maintain  
26 strong support of protecting state and local regulations over trade rules, with the interest of  
27 expanding our state's leading economic sectors, while including enforceable labor and  
28 environmental provisions in trade agreements; and

WHEREAS, the President has asked Congress to approve the TPP under "Fast Track" procedural  
rules, which limit our Congressional representatives' ability to adequately review, debate  
and amend the TPP and make a determination as to whether the TPP is in the best  
interests of the American people and our local residents. NOW, THEREFORE,

1 ~~WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is being negotiated in secret between the~~  
2 ~~United States and 11 Pacific Rim nations, without any consultation with our local~~  
3 ~~government, either directly, or through the US Conference of Mayors or the National~~  
4 ~~Association of Counties; and~~

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6 ~~WHEREAS, the TPP is being presented as enhancing trade, yet, like the North American Free~~  
7 ~~Trade Agreement (NAFTA), is designed to transfer legal rights to corporations and away~~  
8 ~~from local, regional and national governments involved; and~~

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10 ~~WHEREAS, although Washington is a trade dependent state in which at least one third of jobs~~  
11 ~~in the state are directly and indirectly related to international trade, only five of the 29~~  
12 ~~TPP chapters relate to traditional trade issues, such as lowering tariffs; and~~

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

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18 ~~WHEREAS, the Investment Chapter of the TPP, which was leaked in 2012, threatens to~~  
19 ~~undermine current local and national environmental safeguards, and constrain future~~  
20 ~~climate policy action, by creating a system that privileges corporate profits over the well-~~  
21 ~~being of communities and the environment; and whereas similar investment rules in other~~  
22 ~~trade agreements such as NAFTA have allowed foreign corporations to attack sound and~~  
23 ~~democratic policymaking; and~~

1 ~~WHEREAS, the Investment Chapter of the TPP could potentially rob the City of Seattle of~~  
2 ~~needed protections for our people, local businesses and environment by allowing foreign~~  
3 ~~corporations to sue the U.S. for damages over any law or regulation that they believe~~  
4 ~~would reduce their future profits; and whereas the case of Dow AgroSciences v. Canada~~  
5 ~~under NAFTA, where Quebec's ban of pesticides containing 2,4-D was challenged and~~  
6 ~~led to a \$2,000,000 settlement, represents the kind of case that could occur in Seattle; and~~

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8 ~~WHEREAS, the City of Seattle would have no right or ability to represent our interests before~~  
9 ~~the foreign tribunals that would hear cases brought by multi-national corporations under~~  
10 ~~the Investment Chapter of the TPP, and such rulings could require the federal government~~  
11 ~~to pay exorbitant damages using taxpayer money, or remove important health, safety and~~  
12 ~~environmental laws, thus harming Seattle citizens and our democratic process;~~

13  
14 ~~WHEREAS, the TPP threatens Seattle's work force by forcing the U.S to waive "Buy American"~~  
15 ~~or "Buy Local" requirements and by reducing risks and offering incentives to~~  
16 ~~corporations that off shore jobs to low wage countries; and~~

17  
18 ~~WHEREAS, local, state, and federal food safety rules could be challenged by foreign~~  
19 ~~corporations as "illegal trade barriers" if they are held to be at a higher standard than~~  
20 ~~standards in the TPP, thus threatening the health of our residents; and~~

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22 ~~WHEREAS, Seattle residents would be financially harmed due to sections of the TPP that~~  
23 ~~provide large pharmaceutical firms with new rights and powers to increase medicine~~  
24 ~~prices and limit access to cheaper generic drugs; and~~

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2 ~~WHEREAS, the President has urged Congress to approve the TPP under "Fast Track" procedural~~  
3 ~~rules, which limit our Congressional representatives' ability to adequately review the TPP~~  
4 ~~and make a determination as to whether the TPP is in the best interests of the American~~  
5 ~~people and our local residents; NOW, THEREFORE,~~

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7 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

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9 Section 1. The Seattle City Council opposes "Fast Track" authority for the TPP, and  
10 instead requests that the President and Congress carry out a fully transparent and inclusive  
11 legislative process for consideration of the TPP.

12 Section 2. The Seattle City Council urges President Obama and U.S. Trade  
13 Representative Michael Froman to negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership to advance the  
14 interests of workers, to maintain the sovereignty of local governments, to safeguard our  
15 environment, to improve the quality of life in all countries that are signatory to the agreement,  
16 and to ensure the absolute sovereignty of U. S. courts and not agree to arbitration outside of the  
17 normal judicial process.

18 Section 3. If these principles are not adequately addressed in the final Trans-Pacific  
19 Partnership Agreement, the Seattle City Council will urge our Congressional delegation to vote  
20 to reject this trade agreement.

21 ~~Section 1. The City of Seattle declares its opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership~~  
22 ~~because of its potential to negatively affect the City's ability to protect our environment, and to~~  
23 ~~act in the best interests of our residents, our work force, and our local businesses.~~

24 ~~Section 2. The City of Seattle will convey this resolution to our Congressional delegation,~~  
25 ~~to President Obama, and to U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, with our demand that all~~  
26 ~~text be made public and that a new model of trade and investment be created that provides local~~  
27 ~~and national governments with the unconstrained freedom to safeguard our environment, protect~~  
28 ~~communities and workers, and tackle climate change.~~

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Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, and  
signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)