

Resolution in Opposition to “Fast Track” Consideration and Provisions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

WHEREAS the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) treaty (i) has been negotiated in secret over a period of six years, largely under the domination of unidentified corporate interests and excluding participation by members of Congress (who are still prohibited from having hard copies of the treaty), and (ii) has not been made public and is known only in part, through sporadic leaks; and

WHEREAS early leaks have made clear that the TPP treaty embodies, in its many chapters, a binding international governance system that would subject individuals and entities in each signatory country to international assessments; and

WHEREAS a recent leak of the TPP’s 55-page “Investment Chapter,” as published (with 15 “Annexes”) by “Wikileaks” at <https://wikileaks.org/tpp-investment/press.html>, makes clear that the ongoing negotiations aim to create “investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) tribunals ... designed to overrule [existing] national court systems” and enable foreign companies and other multinationals to sue individual states and obtain compensation for their “expected future profits” if the tribunal concludes that any of the state’s “laws or policies” are adversely affecting those claimed profits; and

WHEREAS a myriad of health, safety, employment, environmental, labor and other laws and regulations established or to be established by American federal, state, and local governments would be put at grave risk of challenge, financial penalties and/or invalidation by ISDS tribunals comprised of unelected international corporate attorneys; and

WHEREAS past trade agreements sharing many apparent similarities to the TPP have facilitated off-shoring of high-wage jobs and dramatically increased our trade deficit; and

WHEREAS it has been proposed that Congressional action on the TPP be conducted under a “Trade Promotion Authority,” a/k/a “Fast-Track,” to speed its ratification without amendment and with severely restricted debate;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we oppose the use of “Fast-Track” authority under any name or guise whatever, to limit or accelerate Congressional or public consideration of the TPP treaty and/or preclude constructive amendments, because we believe Congress must be allowed to fulfill its Constitutional authority and responsibilities with complete freedom to fully review, discuss, debate, and amend the TPP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the TPP be made public in advance of its final consideration by Congress, so that voters may have an opportunity to contact their senators regarding its provisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose any and all parts of the TPP that would threaten our hard-won environmental, safety, health, and worker-rights laws; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States and our U.S. Senators, urging them to act in accordance with this resolution.

Adopted _____ *by* _____