



Allegheny County Council

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Legislation Text

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Expressing the Sense of Council of Allegheny County urging Congress to oppose "fast track" authority in its current form for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), and instead, urges the President and Congress to conduct fully transparent and inclusive legislative process for consideration of the TPP.

Whereas, the Council of Allegheny County strongly supports international fair trade practices and agreements that foster economic growth and high standards for labor, our environment, and public health; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania is a trade-dependent state in which exports, directly, or indirectly, support nearly 1.6 million jobs at more than 15,000 businesses, and exports from Pennsylvania totaled more than \$40 billion in 2013, including \$10 billion from the Pittsburgh area; and

Whereas, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (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 other matters-all important to our county, other local jurisdictions, and Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, fair trade practices and agreements 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; and

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, the January 2015 draft of the Investment Chapter of the TPP includes "Investor-2 State Dispute Settlement" provisions that could give multinational corporations excessive power to undermine national and local governmental authority to create reasonable rules and regulations, including those related to environmental safeguards, future climate policy, food safety standards, and specific protections for American jobs; and

Whereas, 151 members of Congress, including Congressman Mike Doyle of Pittsburgh, have signed a letter calling on our trade representatives to consult with Congress to pursue a more transparent and inclusive legislative process for consideration of the TPP; and

Whereas, the President has asked Congress to approve the TPP under "fast track" procedural rules which limit our Congressional representative's 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, IT IS MOVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, urges Congress to oppose "fast track" authority in its current form for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), and instead, urges the President and Congress to conduct a fully transparent and

inclusive legislative process for consideration of the TPP; and

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Council of Allegheny County urges the President and U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman to negotiate a Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement that meets the above principles.

PRIMARY SPONSOR: COUNCIL PRESIDENT DEFAZIO