

RES. 13-14
AGAINST the TRANS-Pacific Partnership

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is being negotiated between the United States and 12 or more Pacific Rim countries by the US Trade Representative in secret without any consultation with local governments either directly or through the National League of Cities, the US Conference of Mayors, or the National Association of Counties. The text of the agreement is being drafted with advice from transnational corporations, which will benefit greatly from its rules. The TPP text has not been made available to the public or even to our local officials.

The Administration expects Congress to approve the Trans Pacific Partnership under “Fast Track” procedural rules which forbid Congress to amend it and which require an up-or-down vote in 60 days. “Fast Track” procedures make it impossible for our elected representatives to adequately study the Trans Pacific document presented to them in order to determine if this proposed Agreement is in the best interests of the American people. This review is particularly important since the Trans Pacific Partnership will supersede current federal, state and local law and prohibit our representatives from taking certain actions to better our society and economy in the future.

The TPP would have direct, potentially undesirable consequences for Dane County, its people, its local businesses, and its ecological systems on which all life depends. Negative ramifications include the following:

- The Investment Chapter of the TPP, which was leaked in 2012, would allow foreign corporations to sue the United States and its states over any law or regulation which could reduce their future profits and therefore potentially rob Dane County of needed protections for our people, local businesses and environment.
- TPP financial rules would weaken or prevent regulation of risky financial products such as “interest rate swaps” thereby threatening the financial stability of our government and more broadly the stability of our overall economy.
- U.S., state and local food safety rules could be challenged by foreign corporations as “illegal trade barriers” if higher than standards in the TPP, thus threatening the health of our residents.
- The TPP would provide large pharmaceutical firms with new rights and powers to increase medicine prices and limit access to cheaper generic drugs, which would impact our residents.
- The US would agree to waive “Buy American” or “Buy Local” requirements aimed at enhancing our local economy and creating local jobs.
- We would have no right or ability to represent our interests before the foreign tribunals which would have the authority to hear cases brought by corporations under the TPP.
- Such rulings might require taxpayer compensation which could impact the financial health of Dane County and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges President Obama and US Trade Representative Michael Froman to respond to our demand that all text be made public and the TPP be re-written to promote the interests of workers, protect the environment and improve the quality of life in all participating countries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby declares that Dane County is a TPP-Free Zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if, despite the harm to our community and our nation,

Congress approves the TPP, Dane County will take up an ordinance and all other necessary measures to enforce the TPP-Free Zone to the maximum extent allowed by law. We will not surrender our ability to act in the best interest of our residents, our workforce, and our local businesses and to protect our ecological systems on which all life is based.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges cities, villages, and towns within the county to adopt this resolution as well.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, the Dane County Congressional delegation, and to President Obama.