

RESOLUTION NO. 078-15-14417

Resolution of the Mayor and Commission of the City of South Miami opposing the fast-track of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (“TPP”) is a “trade agreement” that has been negotiated in secret and that Congress is now considering “fast-tracking”; and

WHEREAS, it appears that even members of Congress do not have access to the full agreement; and

WHEREAS, this extreme level of secrecy is unacceptable in a democracy; and

WHEREAS, “[o]nly 5 of [the TPP’s] 29 chapters cover traditional trade matters¹” and thus the remaining 2 dozen chapters may be creating sweeping new “rights” and escape hatches to protect multinational corporations from accountability; and

WHEREAS, much of the TPP grants new multi-national corporate rights including: “safeguards to ease job offshoring and loss of our sovereign rights to control our natural resources, and limit our sovereign right to regulation of financial services, land use, food safety, natural resources, energy, tobacco, healthcare²”; and

WHEREAS, it would appear that the TPP will lead to an increase the production of fossil fuels that contribute to global warming that in turn contributes to increased sea level, extreme weather events, and more that impact South Miami’s people, property and environment without the normal checks and balances afforded by court challenge; and

WHEREAS, news of the TPP thus far indicates that it will encompass 40% of the world’s population and 60% of global GDP and that the TPP is less about trade than about a massive expansion of transnational corporate control, establishing rules which are enforced by corporate challenges to domestic laws before unaccountable tribunals, thus stripping decision-making from citizens and usurping democracy locally and globally; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the TPP would rob local governments of economic protections by (1) invalidating “Sweatshop Free” ordinances and “Buy Local” policies that help local economies and workers, (2) empowering foreign corporations to sue governments over any regulation in violation of the TPP which could impede profit, (3) depriving governments of the ability to represent constituents’ interests in lawsuits brought by corporations, and (4) requiring that secret, foreign tribunals decide such cases, potentially awarding exorbitant taxpayer compensation to corporations; and

WHEREAS, if the TPP grants immunity to the members of the TPP concerning US, state and local food safety rules, it could endanger lives; and

WHEREAS, local governments and organizations throughout the U.S. are opposing the fast-tracking of these trade policies; and

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/03/opinion/obamas-covert-trade-deal.html?_r=0

² <http://www.thenation.com/article/168627/nafta-steroids>

WHEREAS, anti-TPP or anti-fast-track resolutions have been passed in New York City; Pittsburgh, PA; San Francisco, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Seattle, WA; St. Paul, MN; Madison, WI; Berkeley, CA; Tompkins County, NY; Fort Bragg, CA; Mahoning County, OH; Bellingham, WA; Richmond, CA; Hollywood, CA; Oak Park Township, IL; Dane County, WI; Guadalupe, AZ; and Columbus, OH³; and

WHEREAS, the South Miami City Commission believes that the public has the right to know as much information as possible about the affairs of government, especially a trade agreement with far reaching ramifications like the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The City of South Miami ("City") Commission does hereby call upon its congressional delegation to oppose the "fast-track" of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other similar trade policies; and

Section 2. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the National League of Cities, the US Conference of Mayors, US Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, US Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio, President Barack Obama and US Trade Representative Michael Froman, with this request to cease TPP, to make all related text and processes public immediately and to refrain from "Fast Tracking" any trade agreement, in the interests of democracy, the people and the planet.

Section 3. Severability. If any section clause, sentence, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by vote of the City Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of May, 2015.

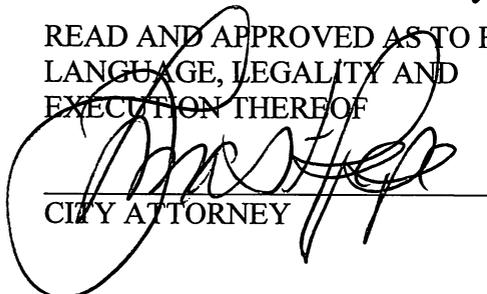
ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

APPROVED:


MAYOR

READ AND APPROVED AS TO FORM,
LANGUAGE, LEGALITY AND
EXECUTION THEREOF


CITY ATTORNEY

COMMISSION VOTE:	4-0
Mayor Stoddard:	Yea
Vice Mayor Harris:	Yea
Commissioner Edmond:	Yea
Commissioner Liebman:	Yea
Commissioner Welsh:	Absent

³ <http://www.sierraclub.org/compass/2015/04/nyc-goes-tpp-free>