

## **Richmond City Council Resolution Opposing Extension of Disastrous Trade Policies**

WHEREAS: On February 17th, 2015, the Richmond City Council approved Resolution 17-15, opposing the fast-tracking of the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, along with the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement (TTIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA); and

WHEREAS: The text of the TPP has now been made public and concerns have only grown about this and similar trade policies; and

WHEREAS: The AFL-CIO is encouraging cities nationwide to pass resolutions opposing these disastrous trade policies, with a particular focus on its horrific impact on labor rights and rules; and

WHEREAS: U.S. trade deals for the past 25 years have been corporate-driven, incorporating rules that skew benefits to economic elites while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies; and

WHEREAS: The growing trade deficits, driven by the North American Free Trade Agreement, China's accession to the World Trade Organization, and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, have displaced 700,000 jobs and 3.2 million jobs, and 75,000 jobs respectively; and

WHEREAS: U.S. employment in manufacturing dropped by 5 million from 2000 to 2015; and

WHEREAS: The City of Richmond's unemployment rate is 5.1% and many more residents are underemployed and among the working poor; and

WHEREAS: Jobs lost due to trade devastate families and entire communities and can permanently reduce lifetime earnings for hundreds of thousands of workers; and

WHEREAS: The long decline of the American manufacturing base—exacerbated by bad trade policies that reward outsourcing—has undermined our economic security and poses a direct threat to our national security; and

WHEREAS: The offshoring of manufacturing and service jobs deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues, jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of public servants as well as construction workers whose jobs depend upon infrastructure building, repair and maintenance; and

WHEREAS: The offshoring of manufacturing increases air and sea transport around the Pacific Rim, thereby adding to the carbon-footprint of imported goods, and therefore

increasing greenhouse gas emissions leading to further global warming and extreme weather; and

Whereas: The TPP includes a “docking” agreement whereby any country may agree to all provisions and join the TPP thus increasing the negative impact, geographically and economically, of all TPP provisions; and

Whereas: Increased global warming and extreme weather will impact the City of Richmond leading to increased costs for emergency response, rebuilding, adaptation and mitigation and emergency response that could be used for public jobs to build renewable energy infrastructure , retrofit and build energy efficient housing; and

WHEREAS: Under NAFTA-style trade rules, the U.S. annual trade deficit has increased dramatically from 70 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to more than \$508 billion in 2014; and

WHEREAS: The disproportionate voice of powerful U.S. and multinational global corporations in the formation of U.S. “free trade” agreements has advanced an agenda that undermines human rights, the public interest and threatens democracy at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS: NAFTA and all but two of the U.S. trade deals that followed it include special legal rights for foreign investors, known as “investor-to-state dispute settlement” or ISDS, that allow foreign firms to bypass state and federal courts to challenge state and local laws, regulations, and administrative and judicial decisions in secret international tribunals; and

WHEREAS: The TPP includes provisions locking in monopoly protections for expensive specialty drugs called biologics and constrict the government’s ability to limit spending on drugs, potentially increasing drug costs for the government and all Americans; and

WHEREAS: The TPP will impact community health services that provide for the underemployed, unemployed, poor and disadvantaged in the City of Richmond; and

WHEREAS: Foreign investors already have used NAFTA’s ISDS provisions to challenge decisions regarding local building permits, state bans on toxic chemicals and decisions of state courts; and

WHEREAS: Promoting economic growth with equity in Richmond requires an approach that reforms the entire trade negotiation process to ensure that voices of workers, farmers, small businesses, families and communities are heard and their interests addressed; and

WHEREAS: The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) has been negotiated with almost 600 corporate representatives in secret, effectively shutting state and local governments out of

the process, limiting our ability to influence its rules to ensure the people of Richmond can participate in the benefits of trade; and

WHEREAS: Given the enactment of fast track trade negotiating authority, states, localities and their citizens have [will have] no opportunity to correct shortcomings of the now public TPP text and Congress cannot follow normal Congressional procedure that permits full hearings and amendments; and

WHEREAS: Repeating old mistakes in negotiating new trade agreements such as the TPP represents a missed opportunity to strengthen our economy, reduce income inequality, promote sustainable growth, and address the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS: the TPP is legally binding, while agreements negotiated at the United Nations Climate Talks in Paris (COP 21) are not binding, thus setting up barriers to addressing urgent climate and sustainability concerns; so

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Richmond City Council calls upon our federal elected officials - Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Mark DeSaulnier - to oppose the TPP and any similar trade deals, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement (TTIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), if they fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We call upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to support new trade deals only if they will:

Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions, such as those in Chapter 8: Technical Barriers to Trade and Chapter 25: Regulatory Coherence, for example, that favor foreign companies over domestic ones and undermine public choices;

Ensure that countries cannot undercut U.S. based producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and enforcement;

Ensure that the U.S. will engage in robust enforcement of trade rules, including labor and environmental rules;

Include strong rule of origin to promote economic growth and job creation in the U.S.; Promote high standards of protection for workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than promoting a race to the bottom; and

Put the interests of people and the planet over the interests of private profit.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That City of Richmond staff send copies of this resolution to our elected officials in the US Senate and US House of Representatives.