

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year 2016

Upon the Recommendation of City Councilors Maureen T. Carney, Alisa F. Klein, and Council President William H. Dwight

R-16.023

A Resolution to Oppose the TPP and Similar Trade Deals If They Fail to Restructure the Misguided and Failed Policies of the Past

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Northampton in City Council assembled, as follows,

- WHEREAS, The **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** is a trade agreement among twelve Pacific Rim countries concerning a variety of matters of economic policy, which was reached on 5 October 2015 after 7 years of negotiations.
- 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 (NAFTA), China's accession to the World Trade Organization, and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, have displaced from the U.S. 700,00 jobs, 3.2 million jobs, and 75,000 jobs, respectively, and
- WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2015, U.S. employment in manufacturing dropped by 5 million, 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, Under NAFTA-style trade rules, the U.S. annual trade deficit has increased dramatically from 70 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went in to effect, to

more than \$508 billion in 2014, and

WHEREAS, the disproportionate voice of powerful global corporation in the formation of U.S. “free trade” agreements has advance an agenda that undermines the public interest and threatens democracy, 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” (ISDS), a private justice system that undermine US sovereignty and democratic control over our economy by allowing foreign firms to bypass state and federal courts to challenge state and federal laws, regulations, and administrative and judicial decisions in international tribunals, and

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

WHEREAS, Climate change and environmental degradation threaten communities across the globe, and ISDS provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership may expose nations enacting policies to fight climate change to ISDA cases that undermine these efforts, and

WHEREAS, Promoting economic growth with equity in Northampton 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 TPP has been negotiated in secret, effectively shutting state and local governments out of the process, limiting our ability to influence its rules to ensure the people of Northampton can participate in the benefits of trade, and

WHEREAS, Given the enactment of fast track trade negotiating authority, states, localities and their citizens will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings in the TPP since its text will not be made public until it is final and no longer can be improved, 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 and promote sustainable growth,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Northampton, Massachusetts

1. Calls upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to oppose the TPP and any similar trade deals if they fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past.

2. Hereby requests that the Council Clerk forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to the Massachusetts Delegation to the United States Senate and the United States Congress on behalf of the entire City Council.