

URGING CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP
AND OTHER SECRET TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FUTURE

In 2013, the County Board approved Resolution 148, Against the Trans-Pacific Partnership. At that time, the TPP was being negotiated in secret. It is now before Congress for approval. The United States Government has negotiated the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in secret, effectively shutting state and local governments out of the process, limiting our ability to influence its rules to ensure the public can participate in the benefits of trade. 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. Promoting economic growth with equity 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.

The TPP is not the first of its kind. The trade deficit is dramatically growing, 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, which have displaced 700,000 jobs, 3.2 million jobs, and 75,000 jobs respectively. United States trade deals for the past 25 years have been corporate-driven, incorporating rules that skew benefits for economic elites and against workers, while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies. 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.

The hundreds of thousands of jobs lost due to international trade have a devastating impact on workers, their families, and their entire communities and can permanently reduce lifetime earnings. Manufacturing and service jobs that were moved overseas deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues, jeopardizing the essential work of millions of public servants who make our communities run and function, as well as impacting construction workers whose jobs depend upon infrastructure building, repair and maintenance.

The disproportionate voice of powerful global corporations in the formation of U.S. "free trade" agreements has advanced an agenda that undermines the public interest and hinders democracy. 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 and instead challenge state and local laws, regulations, and administrative and judicial decisions in international tribunals. Foreign investors already have used NAFTA's ISDS provisions to challenge decisions regarding local building permits, environmental regulations, state bans on toxic chemicals and decisions of state courts.

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;

45 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges
46 Senator Johnson, Senator Baldwin, and Representative Pocan to oppose the TPP and all future
47 secret trade negotiations;

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49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges Senator
50 Johnson, Senator Baldwin, and Representative Pocan to support new trade deals only if they:
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- 52 - Protect and promote state and local prerogatives and authority under our federal system,
53 including ensuring that states and localities will not be required to comply with certain
54 commitments or restrictions on preferences for local, state, or U.S. goods or services,
55 without prior informed consent of the legislature or local law making body;
- 56 - Ensure balanced trade and address the excessive U.S. trade deficit;
- 57 - Include enforceable rules against currency manipulation, which countries such as China
58 and Japan have used to tilt the playing field in their favor;
- 59 - Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions that favor
60 foreign companies over domestic ones and undermine public choices;
- 61 - Ensure that countries cannot undercut U.S. based producers with weaker labor and
62 environmental laws and enforcement;
- 63 - Ensure that the U.S. will engage in robust enforcement of trade rules, including labor
64 and environmental rules;
- 65 - Put the interests of people and the planet over the interests of private profit.

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67 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to President Obama,
68 Senator Johnson, Senator Baldwin, and Representative Pocan.