



Legislation Text

File #: 0115X-2015, **Version:** 1

To oppose the fast tracking of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and to support fair trade practices that protect residents, workers, businesses and the environment.

WHEREAS, trade officials from the United States and eleven Pacific Rim nations have been engaged in negotiations to sign a Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP); and

WHEREAS, the stated goals of the TPP are to enhance trade and investment among the TPP partner countries, promote innovation, economic growth and development, and support the creation and retention of jobs; and

WHEREAS, the TPP will cover all aspects of commercial relations among the member countries, including policy matters related to intellectual property, labor, human rights, agriculture, natural resources, the environment, government procurement, financial services, healthcare, telecommunications and energy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus strongly supports international fair trade practices and agreements that promote economic growth, technological innovation and high worker, health, safety and environment standards; and

WHEREAS, provisions believed to be contained in the TPP could undermine current local and national worker protections, and health, safety and environmental safeguards while stripping the City of Columbus of needed protections for our residents, workers, businesses and the environment; and

WHEREAS, trade rules should promote the creation of family-wage jobs, encourage shared prosperity, protect our environment, ensure the safety of food and other products, facilitate the revitalization of U.S. manufacturing, set responsible protections of intellectual property, and maintain local authority to establish reasonable regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Trade Promotion Authority (also known as "Fast Track authority") is being sought to allow for the negotiation of a TPP agreement that Congress would only be able to approve or disapprove, but not amend; and

WHEREAS, the TPP is being negotiated with minimal consultation with the U.S. Congress, and no consultation with local governments, or the residents, workers and local businesses Columbus City Council represents; and

WHEREAS, concerns with the lack of transparency regarding proposed elements of the TPP have motivated a broad coalition of labor, environmental, civil liberties and technology organizations to oppose Fast Track authorization of the TPP; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

That this Council does hereby oppose the fast tracking of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and urges our federal lawmakers to hold a transparent and public debate so we may assess the impact of the agreement and ensure fair trade practices that protect the rights of Columbus residents, workers, businesses and the environment.