

**BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
COUNTY OF HUDSON**

RESOLUTION

No.

On Motion of Freeholder Board as a whole
Seconded by Freeholder _____

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COUNTY OF HUDSON'S OPPOSITION TO THE
PROPOSED TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP DUE TO ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE
COUNTY'S ABILITY TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND TO ACT IN THE BEST
INTERESTS OF OUR RESIDENTS, OUR WORK FORCE, AND OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is being negotiated in secret between the United States and 11 Pacific Rim nations, without any consultation with our local government, either directly, or through the National Association of Counties; and

WHEREAS, the TPP is being presented as enhancing trade, yet, like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), is designed to transfer legal rights to corporations and away from local, regional and national governments involved; and

WHEREAS, although the State of New Jersey is a trade-dependent State in which International trade, including exports and imports, supports 1.2 million New Jersey jobs – more than 1 in 5. These trade-related jobs grew 6.3 times faster than total employment from 2004 to 2013 and are at large and small companies, on farms, in factories; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey exported \$35.4 billion in goods and \$21.5 billion in services in 2013, including nonferrous metals, basic chemicals, scrap products and travel services. Of New Jersey's 21,051 exporters, 92 percent are small- and medium-sized companies with less than 500 workers and these jobs are directly and indirectly related to international trade; and

WHEREAS, only five of the 29 TPP chapters relate to traditional trade issues, such as lowering tariffs the Investment Chapter of the TPP, which was leaked in 2012, threatens to undermine current local and national environmental safeguards, and constrain future climate policy action, by creating a system that privileges corporate profits over the well-being of communities and the environment; and whereas similar investment rules in other trade agreements such as NAFTA have allowed foreign corporations to attack sound and democratic policymaking; and

WHEREAS, the Investment Chapter of the TPP could potentially rob the County of Hudson of needed protections for our people, local businesses and environment by allowing foreign corporations to sue the U.S. for damages over any law or regulation that they believe would reduce their future profits; and whereas the case of Dow Agro Sciences v. Canada under NAFTA, where Quebec's ban of pesticides containing 2,4-D was challenged and led to a \$2,000,000 settlement, represents the kind of case that could occur in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the County of Hudson and State of New Jersey would have no right or ability to represent our interests before the foreign tribunals that would hear cases brought by multi-national corporations under the Investment Chapter of the TPP, and such rulings could require the federal government to pay exorbitant damages using taxpayer money, or remove important health, safety and environmental laws, thus harming New Jersey citizens and our democratic process; and

WHEREAS, the TPP threatens New Jersey and The County of Hudson's work force by forcing the U.S to waive "Buy American" or "Buy Local" requirements and by reducing risks and offering incentives to corporations that off-shore jobs to low-wage countries; and

WHEREAS, local, state, and federal food safety rules could be challenged by foreign corporations as "illegal trade barriers" if they are held to be at a higher standard than standards in the TPP, thus threatening the health of our residents; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey and Hudson County residents would be financially harmed due to sections of the TPP that provide large pharmaceutical firms with new rights and powers to increase medicine prices and limit access to cheaper generic drugs; and

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WHEREAS, the President has urged Congress to approve the TPP under "Fast Track" procedural rules, which limit our Congressional representatives' ability to adequately review the TPP and make a determination as to whether the TPP is in the best interests of the American people and our local residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hudson that:

1. The Board declares its opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership because of its potential to negatively affect the County's ability to protect our environment, and to act in the best interests of our residents, our work force, and our local businesses.
2. The Board will convey this resolution to our Congressional delegation, to President Obama, and to U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, with our demand that all text be made public and that a new model of trade and investment be created that provides local and national governments with the unconstrained freedom to safeguard our environment, protect communities and workers, and tackle climate change.

Freeholder	Aye	Nay	Abst.	N.P.	Freeholder	Aye	Nay	Abst.	N.P.
Balmir				✓	Rodriguez	✓			
Cifelli	✓				Romano	✓			
Kopacz	✓				Vainieri	✓			
O'Dea	✓				Chairman Maldonado	✓			
Rivas				✓					

It is hereby certified that at a ^{Caucus}~~regular~~ meeting of the Board of Freeholders of the County of Hudson held on the 21 day of April A.D. 2015, the foregoing resolution was adopted with 7 members voting in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

 _____, Clerk



Noon

April 23, 2015

Wear Your Union Colors

Bring A Friend!

Join the Hudson County Central Labor Council

And

Our Community Allies

To

Stop “Fast Tracking”

The Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

Join Us At Noon — “The Fountain” — Journal Square — Jersey City
Closest Intersection: Bergen and Sip Avenues

Who: Elected Officials-Union Leaders-Activists

What: Rally to Stop “Fast Track” on the TPP

Where: At The “Fountain” in Journal Square, Jersey City

When: Noon, Thursday, April 23, 2015

Why: To defend our jobs, public health and democracy from this corporate power grab!

Information: HUDSONCLC@LABORCOUNCIL.ORG

<http://WWW.LABORCOUNCIL.ORG>