

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART, INDIANA

Resolution 2016 - 06

**A Resolution Opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement  
and other Disastrous Trade Policies**

**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. In addition, U.S. employment in manufacturing dropped by 5 million from 2000 to 2015.

At the end of 2015, the State of Indiana's unemployment rate is 4.8% and the poverty rate is 14.1%, which requires the expenditure of limited public funds to assist families in crisis.

In addition, previous disastrous trade policies have led to the long decline of the American manufacturing base by rewarding outsourcing, which has undermined our economic security and poses a direct threat to our national security. Furthermore, 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.

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. 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, which allow foreign firms to bypass state and federal courts to challenge state and local laws, regulations, and administrative and judicial decisions in international tribunals. In addition, 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.

Furthermore, promoting economic growth with equity in the State of Indiana 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. Instead, the TPP was 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 Indiana can participate in the benefits of trade;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana calls upon our elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives to publicly oppose the TPP and work to ensure his colleagues oppose the TPP because it fails to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past and will lead to increasing the U.S. annual trade deficit.

**AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana calls upon our elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives to oppose the TPP because it does not meet the following standards:

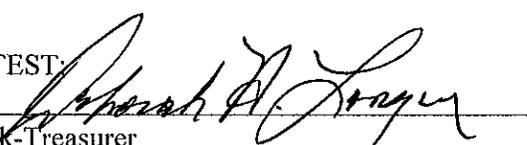
- Protect and promote traditional state and local prerogatives and authority under our federal system, including by ensuring that states and localities will not be required to comply with certain commitments, including any restrictions on

preferences for local, state, or U.S. goods or services, without prior informed consent of the legislature or local lawmaking body;

- Ensure balanced trade and address the excessive, job-killing U.S. trade deficit;
- Include enforceable rules against currency manipulation, which countries such as China and Japan have used to tilt the playing field in their favor;
- Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions 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.

**ALL OF WHICH IS ADOPTED** as a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

ATTEST:

  
Clerk-Treasurer

  
PRESIDING OFFICER