

RESOLUTION NO. 17-15

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA OPPOSING THE FAST-TRACK OF TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP) Agreement, TAFTA, and TiSA

WHEREAS, The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a “trade agreement” that has been negotiated in secret and that Congress is now considering “fast-tracking”; and

WHEREAS, this extreme level of secrecy is unacceptable in a democracy; and

WHEREAS, “Of the 29 chapters in the TPP agreement, only five cover traditional trade matters” (1) and the remaining 2 dozen chapters create sweeping new "rights" and escape hatches to protect multinational corporations from accountability; and

WHEREAS, The Trans-Pacific Partnership allows for “the nullification of our people’s constitutional right to direct expenditures of our own tax dollars” (1); and,

WHEREAS, Much of the TPP grants new multi-national corporate rights including; “safeguards to ease job offshoring and loss of our sovereign rights to control our natural resources, and limit our sovereign right to regulation of financial services, land use, food safety, natural resources, energy, tobacco, healthcare” (2); and,

WHEREAS, the TPP, thus far encompassing 40% of the world’s population and 60% of global GDP, is less about trade than about a massive expansion of transnational corporate control, establishing rules which are enforced by corporate challenges to domestic laws before unaccountable tribunals, thus stripping decision-making from citizens and usurping democracy locally and globally; and

WHEREAS, the TPP would rob Richmond of economic protections by:

1. invalidating “Sweatshop Free” ordinances and “Buy Local” policies that help local economies and workers,
2. providing even more expansive incentives than NAFTA to relocate domestic manufacturing and services offshore,
3. threatening financial stability by preventing regulation of risky financial products,
4. empowering foreign corporations to sue governments over any regulation in violation of the TPP which could impede profit,
5. depriving governments of the ability to represent constituents' interests in lawsuits brought by corporations, and
6. requiring that secret, foreign tribunals decide such cases, potentially awarding exorbitant taxpayer compensation to corporations; and

WHEREAS, the TPP would grant pharmaceutical firms new "rights" to increase medicine prices and limit affordable generic drugs; and US, state and local food safety rules could be challenged by corporations, thus endangering lives; and there are serious environmental objections as well; and

WHEREAS, the TPP will increase the production of fossil fuels that contribute to global warming to contribute to increased sea level, extreme weather events, and more that impact Richmond's people, property and environment, given that laws to protect the environment and support sustainable energy can be challenged; and

WHEREAS, the Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) and Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) are unacceptable for the same reasons and more; and

WHEREAS, local governments and organizations throughout the U.S. are opposing the fast-tracking of these trade policies, including the City of Berkeley, City of Madison, and Dane County, WI, as well as the AFL-CIO, Moveon.org and many other organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond City Council believes that the public has that right to know as much information as possible about the affairs of government, especially a trade agreement with far reaching ramifications like the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council does hereby call upon its congressional delegation to oppose the “fast-track” of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other similar trade policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council hereby declares the City of Richmond a TPP/TAFTA/TiSA-Free Zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager send copies of this resolution to the National League of Cities, the US Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the Western Governors Association, US Representatives Barbara Lee, Rosa DeLauro and Mark DeSaulnier, US Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, President Barack Obama and US Trade Representative Michael Froman, with this request to cease TPP, TAFTA, and TiSA negotiations, to make all related text and processes public immediately and to refrain from “Fast Tracking” any trade agreement, in the interests of democracy, the people and the planet.

(1) <http://www.hightowerlowdown.org/node/3402>

(2) <http://www.thenation.com/article/168627/nafta-steroids>

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on February 17, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers, Beckles, Martinez, McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Myrick, and Mayor Butt.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: Councilmember Bates.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 17-15**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on February 17, 2015.