

2015-K1191

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to oppose ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement

WHEREAS, The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a free trade agreement between the United States, Canada, Australia, Chile, Mexico, Malaysia, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, New Zealand, and Japan which currently is pending approval from the legislature of each of the mentioned countries; and

WHEREAS, Together these nations contribute 40% of the world's Gross Domestic Product, and one third of the world's trade; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the United States Trade Representative, through the terms of the TPP, is seeking to eliminate both tariff and non-tariff "barriers to goods and services trade and investment" among the twelve participating nations; and

WHEREAS, The agreement includes provisions concerning financial regulations, environmental protection, prescription drug pricing and food sanitation standards, the adoption of which could negatively affect the public's health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, in a news report, warns that the TPP "has the potential to undermine a wide range of state and local laws" and cited the possibility that foreign investors could seek damages if their projects were delayed by governmental action or could challenge consumer protection laws; and

WHEREAS, Several constituencies and public policy advocates, such as the Economic Policy Institute, have expressed concern that our domestic economy over the last twenty years has been hurt, causing numerous American jobs to be lost, due to trade agreements like the TPP which result in American companies outsourcing and offshoring domestic jobs; and

WHEREAS, There are additional concerns that the passage of the TPP

would ban "Buy American" and "Buy Local" efforts by U.S. industries, which could put goods and services created and based in New York State at a competitive disadvantage; and

WHEREAS, These reservations are only a few of the very troubling aspects of the agreement, which would undermine our own environmental protections and does not adequately address critical issues such as food safety; and

WHEREAS, Resolutions from the City Council of New York, Tompkins County, Albany County, and the Syracuse Common Council oppose the TPP; and

WHEREAS, Several other American municipal governments, such as those of Berkeley and Los Angeles, California and Dane County and Madison, Wisconsin have also expressed their opposition; and

WHEREAS, These local governments have recognized the harm that passage of the TPP will create and as a result have shown commendable leadership by opposing a treaty that would do a disservice to their citizens, as well as to New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to oppose ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Congress of the United States from the State of New York.