

2016 THURSTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC RESOLUTIONS

8. Oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Similar Trade Deals

(Adopted June 27, 2016)

WHEREAS Thurston County Democrats value our environment and a strong economy while recognizing the importance of trade to our economy;

WHEREAS under corporate driven, NAFTA-style trade rules, the U.S. annual trade deficit has increased from 70 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA, to over \$508 billion in 2014 with 5 million manufacturing jobs lost between 2000 to 2015, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) would most assuredly increase our trade deficit and job losses;

WHEREAS negotiations on TPP were held in secret without local government input and dominated by corporate interests thus going beyond simple trade provisions and instead, establishing a global governance system in which the investors' interests are placed above the interest of the public and threatens democracy;

WHEREAS equitable economic growth requires reform of the entire trade negotiation process to ensure that voices of workers, farmers, small businesses, families, and communities are heard and their interests addressed; and with enactment of fast track trade negotiating authority, states, localities and their citizens will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings in the TPP;

WHEREAS Investor-To-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) tribunals pay no attention to our legal traditions or Constitutional protections and their decisions can force Congress to reverse policies enacted in the public interest allowing private investors to compel governments to compensate them for lost future profits;

WHEREAS income inequality and climate change are two defining problems of our time, the TPP would stand as an obstacle to policies designed to address these global problems with ISDS provisions likely undermining member nations' efforts to curb greenhouse emissions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Thurston County Democrats have a significant interest in how trade agreements affect our economy, government, and the lives and welfare of our citizens and oppose the corporate/investor protection deal known as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) due to effects it will have in our region;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Thurston County Democrats encourage the Washington State Democratic Party to engage with groups that oppose the TPP to build public opposition to the TPP;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all members of the Washington State Democrats be encouraged to contact their members of Congress to express strong reservations concerning the flawed process used to produce TPP and negative consequences of TPP becoming law and urge them to oppose the TPP and any similar trade deals in the future;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Thurston County Democrats call upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to support new trade deals such as the TPP only if they do the following:

- Protect and promote traditional state and local prerogatives and authority under our federal system, including ensuring that states and localities 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 international currency manipulation;
- Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions that favor foreign companies over domestic ones and undermine public choices;
- Ensure countries cannot undercut U.S. producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and enforcement;
- Ensure robust U.S. 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 a race to the bottom; and put the interests of people and the planet over private profit.