

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 652 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WHITE, THOMAS, READSHAW, COHEN, LONGIETTI AND
DeLUCA, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and the Congress of the United States to
2 consider the impact of free trade agreements on the American
3 economy.

4 WHEREAS, The United States currently has many international
5 free trade agreements in place with foreign countries; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to the free trade agreements the United
7 States has created with individual countries, the United States
8 is a partner in several multinational free trade agreements,
9 such as the recently implemented Transatlantic Trade and
10 Investment Partnership and the nearly 20 year old North American
11 Free Trade Agreement; and

12 WHEREAS, The Office of the United States Trade Representative
13 recently announced that President Obama is currently in
14 negotiations for a new international free trade agreement, known
15 as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); and

16 WHEREAS, If agreed to, TPP will be among the largest free
17 trade agreements in the world, comprising the United States and
18 eleven other Pacific-bordering countries, including Australia,

1 Brunei, Chile, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand,
2 Peru, Singapore and Vietnam; and

3 WHEREAS, Historically, American workers, small businesses and
4 human rights activists have questioned the United States'
5 decision to engage in free trade agreements with countries whose
6 labor conditions and wage standards are less than that of the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Some of the countries engaged with the United States
9 in free trade agreements impose policies that conflict with
10 American protections on intellectual property rights, which can
11 place the future of patented American designs, ideas and
12 products at risk; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the years, critics have attributed the closure
14 of thousands of American small businesses, the infringement on
15 American intellectual property and the loss of millions of
16 family-sustaining American jobs to international free trade
17 agreements; and

18 WHEREAS, American small business owners are struggling to
19 compete with multinational corporations who have moved
20 manufacturing facilities out of the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States is in a fragile state of economic
22 recovery as millions of hard-working Americans continue to
23 search for good-paying jobs to support themselves and their
24 families; and

25 WHEREAS, States across the nation are focusing on policies
26 that can spur economic growth, create jobs and incentivize
27 businesses to keep jobs in America; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That Pennsylvania House of Representatives urge the
29 President and the Congress of the United States to consider the
30 impacts of free trade agreements on the American economy prior

1 to authorizing additional multinational free trade agreements,
2 such as TPP; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
4 the President, the presiding officers of each house of Congress
5 and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.