

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 672 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY METCALFE, CLYMER, CUTLER, EVERETT, GILLEN,  
LAWRENCE, LONGIETTI, RAPP, SWANGER, TALLMAN AND EVANKOVICH,  
MARCH 10, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 10, 2014

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to oppose S.1900,  
2 identified as the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities  
3 Act of 2014, and all other Fast Track trade authority  
4 legislation that expands presidential authority beyond what  
5 is granted by the Constitution of the United States.

6 WHEREAS, History has shown that the United States has always  
7 thrived when our nation's interests are put first; and

8 WHEREAS, Expanding global commerce is an important part of  
9 America's economic strategy and trade agreements must allow  
10 American producers access to expanding and emerging markets  
11 worldwide; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States must maintain its independence and  
13 freedom as the nation becomes more globally minded; and

14 WHEREAS, In order to expand global commerce with other  
15 nations, the United States does not need to give away its  
16 sovereignty; and

17 WHEREAS, When the United States enters into any trade  
18 agreement, the agreement must ensure not only the free flow of  
19 trade, but also preserve the sovereignty of this great nation;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, According to Section 8 of Article 1 of the  
3 Constitution of the United States, the Congress alone sets the  
4 trade policy and the President acts as a negotiator of the  
5 policy that Congress establishes; and

6 WHEREAS, Congress relinquishes its constitutional duties by  
7 outsourcing its power to the President concerning trade  
8 agreements under Fast Track trade authority; and

9 WHEREAS, Fast Track trade authority cedes the power of the  
10 535 members of Congress to the President and gives the executive  
11 branch the power to negotiate trade agreements; and

12 WHEREAS, When Fast Track trade authority is awarded, Congress  
13 delegates its constitutional authority to determine the rules  
14 for international trade agreements and the rules are put in  
15 place by the President alone; and

16 WHEREAS, Fast Track trade authority prevents Congress from  
17 voting on trade agreements until after the President signs the  
18 agreement and Congress is given presigned trade agreements that  
19 it cannot amend; and

20 WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering S.1900, a bill to  
21 be known as, if enacted, the Bipartisan Congressional Trade  
22 Priorities Act of 2014; and

23 WHEREAS, S.1900 is Fast Track trade authority legislation  
24 that grants the President the authority to negotiate a trade  
25 agreement that can create binding policies on future patent and  
26 copyright laws, land use, food and agriculture and product  
27 standards, natural resources, the environment, labor laws,  
28 government procurement policies and financial, health care,  
29 energy, telecommunications and other service sector regulations;  
30 and

1 WHEREAS, Such trade agreement could preempt state laws and  
2 infringe upon the rights of private citizens; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
5 States to oppose S.1900, identified as the Bipartisan  
6 Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014, and all other Fast  
7 Track trade authority legislation that expands presidential  
8 authority beyond what is granted by the Constitution of the  
9 United States; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge Congress to  
11 enter into trade agreements that both maintain the sovereignty  
12 of the United States and respect states' rights; and be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
15 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each  
16 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.