
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 932 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, MATZIE, D. MILLER, MARSHALL, D. COSTA,
DeLUCA, GIBBONS, GILLEN, HARHAI, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, NEILSON,
READSHAW AND ROZZI, JUNE 16, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 16, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to oppose the Trans-
2 Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement and any similar
3 trade agreement that adversely affects the manufacturing base
4 of this nation, balloons the United States trade deficit or
5 harms the economic future of the Commonwealth of
6 Pennsylvania.

7 WHEREAS, The growing trade deficit of the United States has
8 largely been driven by the North American Free Trade Agreement
9 (NAFTA), which has cost more than 700,000 American jobs, by
10 China's ascension to the World Trade Organization, which has
11 cost more than 3 million American jobs, and by the United
12 States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which has cost more than
13 75,000 American jobs; and

14 WHEREAS, Between 2000 and 2015, American employment in
15 manufacturing has decreased by more than 5 million jobs; and

16 WHEREAS, The long decline of the American manufacturing base
17 undermines the economic security of this nation and poses a
18 direct threat to national security; and

19 WHEREAS, The offshoring of manufacturing and service jobs

1 deprives State and local governments of sorely needed revenues
2 and jeopardizes the livelihoods of millions of public servants
3 as well as construction workers whose jobs depend upon
4 infrastructure building, repair and maintenance; and

5 WHEREAS, Under NAFTA-style trade rules, the annual trade
6 deficit of the United States has increased dramatically from \$70
7 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to more
8 than \$508 billion in 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, NAFTA and all but two of the United States trade
10 agreements that followed include a provision containing special
11 legal rights for foreign investors, known as an "investor-state
12 dispute settlement," which allows foreign firms to bypass
13 Federal and State courts to challenge State and local laws,
14 regulations and administrative and judicial decisions in
15 international tribunals; and

16 WHEREAS, The Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement
17 (TPP) is likely to include provisions locking in monopoly
18 protection for expensive specialty drugs called biologics and
19 constricting the government's ability to limit spending on
20 drugs, potentially increasing drug costs for governmental
21 entities and all Americans; and

22 WHEREAS, The TPP has been negotiated in secret, effectively
23 curtailing input from State and local governments regarding the
24 effect of trade policies on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and
25 limiting the ability of Commonwealth residents to participate in
26 and influence the negotiating process; and

27 WHEREAS, Given the nature of fast-track trade authority
28 regarding the TPP, states and localities and their residents
29 have no opportunity to correct the shortcomings and improve the
30 language of the TPP because the final text of the agreement has

1 not been made publicly available and the Congress of the United
2 States cannot make any amendments to the agreement but can only
3 approve or deny the agreement as presented; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
6 States to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade
7 Agreement and any similar trade agreement that adversely affects
8 the manufacturing base of this nation, balloons the United
9 States trade deficit or harms the economic future of this
10 Commonwealth; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon the members of the
13 Congress of the United States to recognize the misguided and
14 failed policies associated with past free trade agreements that
15 have decimated the manufacturing base of this nation, ballooned
16 the United States trade deficit and harmed the economic future
17 of this Commonwealth; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
19 the President and Vice President of the United States, to the
20 presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member
21 of Congress from Pennsylvania.