

9 February, 2015

To Fort Bragg City Council,

This is a request to have an item for discussion of the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) placed on the regular agenda of the next Fort Bragg City Council meeting Monday, 23 February, 2015 with the goal of asking the Fort Bragg City Council to pass a resolution to make the City of Fort Bragg a TPP-FREE ZONE immediately.

Please find enclosed information re: the TransPacific Partnership trade agreement which is currently being proposed for a vote in US Congress and the example of a resolution which was passed by the city of Berkeley, CA in September, 2014 to protect their city from the predations of the TPP.

This trade agreement will nullify our national sovereignty and put the United States in a position vulnerable to suit by foreign corporations for lost profits. It will nullify local ordinances we have passed to protect our own local sovereignty as well as laws we have passed for the health and safety of our community.

Negotiations for this trade agreement are being held in secret. According to reports, Congressional legislators are not allowed to bring any information out of a 'reading room' nor are they allowed to take notes or discuss what has been seen.

Please place the discussion of the TPP and the necessity of passing a resolution (as soon as possible) to protect our community from being blind-sided by loss of local control, as an item on the regular agenda of the next City Council meeting: Monday, 23 February, 2015.

Thank you,

Jessie Lee VanSant 964-5511
Agnes Woolsey
Irene Malone



Alliance for Democracy

Joining together to End Corporate Rule

The issue is not the issues;
the issue is the system.

Ronnie Dugger, founder
Alliance for Democracy

TPP-FREE ZONE: MODEL LEGISLATION

Whereas the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) is being negotiated between the US and 12 or more Pacific Rim countries by the US Trade Representative in secret without any consultation with our local government either directly or through the National League of Cities or the US Conference of Mayors or the National Association of Counties; and

Whereas, the text is being drafted with transnational corporations which will benefit greatly from its rules;

Whereas, the TPP text has not been made available to the public or even to our local officials;

Whereas the TPP would have direct, potentially undesirable consequences for our municipality, its people, its local businesses, and its ecological systems on which all life depends;

Whereas the Investment Chapter of the TPP, which was leaked in 2012, would allow foreign corporations to sue the US and its states over any law or regulation violating TPP rules which could take away their "right" to future profits and therefore potentially rob our municipality of needed protections for our people, local businesses and environment;

Whereas TPP financial rules would prevent regulation of risky financial products such as "interest rate swaps" thereby threatening the financial stability of our government and more broadly the stability of our overall economy;

Whereas US, state and local food safety rules could be challenged by foreign corporations as "illegal trade barriers" if higher than standards in other TPP countries thus threatening the health of our residents;

Whereas the TPP would provide large pharmaceutical firms with new rights and powers to increase medicine prices and limit access to cheaper generic drugs which would impact our residents;

Whereas the US would agree to waive "Buy American" or "Buy Local" requirements aimed at enhancing our local economy and creating local jobs;

Whereas, we would have no right or ability to represent our interests before the foreign tribunals which would have the authority to hear cases brought by corporations under the TPP; and

Whereas such rulings might require taxpayer compensation which could impact the financial health of our municipality and its residents;

Therefore the City/Town Council of _____ hereby declares as a matter of law that _____ is a TPP-Free Zone where we will not recognize the secretly negotiated rules laid down without our consent nor any decisions by any secret tribunals which would in any way diminish our ability to act in the best interest of our residents and our local businesses and to protect our ecological systems on which all life is based.

Further, we will convey our ordinance to our Congressional delegation, to President Obama and to US Trade Representative Michael Froman, with our demand that all text be made public and that all further negotiations cease.

And finally, if despite the harm to our community and our nation, Congress approves the TPP, we will take all necessary measures to ensure that this ordinance is enforced.

The Alliance for Democracy

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to end
corporate rule

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Don't let the Trans-Pacific Partnership take away our democratic rights as individuals and as a community!

Create a "TPP-Free Zone" where you live

From leaked text and previous trade agreements, it is clear that the TPP would threaten laws and regulation designed to protect public health, financial transparency, food safety, workers rights, the climate and the environment. It would allow governments to be sued by corporations for lost profit as a result of these ordinances. Yet labor, environmental, health care, internet/free press, climate justice, green energy and democracy organizations have been excluded from the negotiations. They cannot see the text, nor comment on it despite the impact of the TPP on all these issues.

It is time to build a democratic movement of resistance. It is time to start right where we live, in our own community. It is time to say to our US trade representative and the corporations which are sitting at the negotiating table—

"If you, our unelected representatives, create this corporate-driven monstrosity and then go to Congress for a rubber stamp, WE WILL NOT OBEY."

It is time to make our municipalities **"TPP Free Zones,"** following in the footsteps of the successful resistance to an earlier trade agreement, the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, which was defeated in 1998 thanks to a global grassroots campaign.

New! Click [here](#) to download a .pdf of our TPP Free Zone pamphlet. Print it on legal-size paper, or read the text online [here](#).

Click [here](#) for a model municipal law to make your community a **TPP Free Zone**.

Click [here](#) for some pointers in getting a **TPP Free Zone** law passed.

Educate for action: Our upcoming edition of *Justice Rising* focuses on international resistance to corporate global trade agreements, including the TPP. If you'd like to be on the mailing list, contact us at [afd ...at... thealliancefordemocracy ... org](#) or call 781-894-1179.

There's more information, videos and resources on our [TPP page](#).

Questions? Ideas? Resources? We'd like to hear from you. Contact the Alliance for Democracy office at [afd \(at\) thealliancefordemocracy \(dot\) org](#), or 781-894-1179.

What is a TPP-Free Zone?

AfD Co-Chair Ruth Caplan explains how local organizing for "TPP-Free Zone" laws can help defeat this so-called "free trade" agreement while supporting global civil society movements for economic and environmental justice and local democracy.

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Campaign News:

Dane Co., WI passes TPP-Free Resolution
Text of resolution passed on October 17, 2013; coverage in *The Progressive* is [here](#), and on *WisPolitics.com* [here](#)

Madison says No to TPP

The city's Common Council passed **this resolution** on October 29, 2013.

Berkeley, CA declares itself a TPP/TAFTA-Free Zone

In an almost unanimous vote by the Berkeley City Council September 9, 2014, Berkeley opposed the two major trade agreements under negotiation by the US, Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the TransAtlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA), and declared the city a "TPP/TAFTA Free Zone." Read the resolution text [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

TPP-Free Zones on the air

AfD organizer Ruth Caplan was a guest on WeAct radio with David Newsome, Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zeese talking about TPP Free Zones. Listen [here](#)!

TPP-Free Zones on Truthout

Read excerpts from a recent article focus on the TPP Free Zone campaign and the need for communities to stand up to "settled law" and defend local laws from corporate preemption.

New Justice Rising focuses on TPP!

Click on the cover to download individual articles or the whole issue.