

Statement of Eric Weltman
New York Senior Organizer
Food & Water Watch

Declaring the City of New York a "TPP Free Zone"
Proposed Res. No. 576-A (Res. 0576-2015)

Before the Committee on State and Federal Legislation
New York City Council

April 27, 2015

Thank you Chairperson Koslowitz and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of this important resolution opposing the secret and damaging international trade deals that not only threaten our jobs, our environment and consumer safety, but undermine the right of City Council members and our representatives in Albany to take decisive action on behalf of their constituents.

Today's resolution sends a strong message to our congressional representatives, the entire Congress and the army of business lobbyists in the nation's capitol that the American public wholeheartedly rejects the corporate free-trade agenda, Fast Track and the secretive Trans-Pacific Partnership (or TPP).

Fast Track is a legislative process and an executive branch power-grab designed to accelerate the approval of TPP. It usurps the Congress' Constitutional authority over international trade agreements and prevents Congress from providing necessary oversight to negotiations over trade deals. The White House gets to choose the negotiating partners, finalize the trade deals and then submit the TPP to Congress for an up-or-down, take-it-or-leave-it vote. The American people deserve better.

Last week, New York Representatives Charlie Rangel and Joseph Crowley stood up for their constituents and voted against the Republican leadership's Fast Track legislation; Resolution No. 576-A will send a resounding message to the rest of our elected representatives that they should join Reps. Rangel and Crowley in opposing Fast Track.

I'm not here to say NO to the TPP and Fast Track. I'm here to say HELL NO to the TPP and Fast Track. New York City's working families don't need or want a repeat of the failed trade deal giveaways to companies that shift jobs overseas and use trade pacts to undermine commonsense environmental, public health and consumer protections.

These trade deals have been a raw deal for workers. New York City has lost more than 80,000 jobs just from the North American Free Trade Agreement and the China trade deals alone, according to the Economic Policy Institute. And there is widespread agreement among economists that these trade deals have significantly contributed to the growing income and wealth inequality that leaves so many New York City residents behind even when the overall economy prospers.

These trade deals not only destroy American jobs, they unravel and undermine important consumer protections and food safety rules that make trade literally a kitchen table issue. The TPP will bring a flood of imported food and fish that will swamp the ability of border inspectors to stop tainted or unsafe food.

For example, the TPP would open up U.S. supermarkets to a flood of imported fish from countries like Malaysia and Vietnam that often use veterinary drugs and fungicides that are banned in the United States to raise fish and seafood in overcrowded ponds. Since the volume of imported fish would increase but the number of inspectors at the border would not, uninspected shipments of potentially unsafe fish could end up in a grocery store near you.

The food and agribusiness industries even want to further weaken the already inadequate border oversight. These corporate interests have demanded a new TPP panel that can second-guess border inspectors that find potential problems. They also want inspectors to release potentially tainted foods into the food supply while awaiting test results, instead of releasing suspect food shipments only after they have cleared laboratory tests.

Trade deals like the TPP can also overturn or block commonsense food labels that inform consumers of the ingredients contained in their food and where products comes from. The U.S. country-of-origin labeling laws for beef and pork have been under attack by Canada and Mexico at an international trade tribunal since 2008.

Fast Track has specifically identified labels that identify genetically modified foods as illegal trade barriers that should be prohibited. Consumers have the right to know what they are eating. Citizens across the country, including here in New York State, are pushing for state laws to require the labeling of foods containing GMO ingredients, but the Republican Congress is undermining the ability of citizens and states to establish GMO labels.

The TPP will also amplify the pressure to increase fracking for natural gas, even in communities and states that have passed bans or moratoriums on the practice of fracking because it pollutes the environment and threatens human health. Citizens across the country have fought for years to protect their land, water and communities from the dangers of fracking. In 2014, New York became the first state to ban fracking, but more than 250 other communities have also enacted bans or moratoriums.

The TPP will make it harder to for communities to stand up to the gas and oil industry. First, the TPP would automatically approve natural gas exports to all the member countries — especially natural gas hungry Japan — without the normal public interest review and approval process that is required for all exports except for nations that are members of a U.S. free trade agreement. This will make it easier to export more natural gas and increase the pressure to drill more fracked wells, lay more pipelines and build liquid natural gas terminals. By exporting natural gas out of the United States, the domestic price will rise, making it more lucrative to invest in fracking.

The TPP could even challenge and ultimately overturn New York's fracking ban. The recently leaked TPP investment provisions would allow foreign oil and gas companies to challenge state and local efforts to ban fracking. These investment rules allow foreign companies to challenge federal, state and local laws and regulations that the companies claim "indirectly expropriate" their "reasonable investment-backed expectations."

This would allow corporations to sue (for financial damages) over rules that curb dangerous or abusive business practices (like pollution or financial fraud) or even require companies to provide sensible disclosure (like food labels). The oil and gas companies are already using a similar investment provision under NAFTA to prevent local governments from regulating fracking. A natural gas company has challenged a fracking moratorium in the Canadian province of Quebec, which was put in place to study the impact of fracking on the St. Lawrence River.

These kind of special investment rights for foreign companies put very commonsense local rules in jeopardy and have a chilling effect on municipalities like New York City that have strong public interest safeguards. That is why New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman wrote last week that these provisions are "particularly worrisome to those of us in states, such as New York, with robust laws that protect the public welfare — laws that could be undermined by the TPP and its dispute settlement provision."

The corporate free trade agenda is aiming directly at American workers, the environment and public health safeguards. I applaud the Committee for considering a resolution that will send a strong message to Congress, the White House and the corporate lobbyists that Fast Track and TPP are the wrong track for New York City. I urge the City Council to stand with New Yorkers and say HELL NO to Fast Track and the TPP.

CITY COUNCIL TESTIMONY – 4/27/15

My name is Edie Kantrowitz, I am with United for Action and New York City Friends of Clearwater, and I would like to thank the City Council for giving us the opportunity to speak today. I want to express my strongest support for the idea of establishing New York City as a “TPP Free Zone.” We must reject the Trans Pacific Partnership, as well as any and all trade agreements that violate our national sovereignty and allow giant corporations to overrule our national, state and local laws in the name of promoting “trade”.

I have no doubt that you will hear plenty today about how the TPP could threaten food safety, restrict internet freedom, send jobs overseas, and make it impossible for us to enforce our own environmental laws for which we have fought so hard. With droughts, earthquakes, warming temperatures and sea level rise already wreaking havoc and causing tragedy in the world today, I’m sure you’ll also hear plenty about how the TPP threatens any hope we may still have of containing climate change to manageable levels.

But I want to just focus right now on another matter, one that to me seems unspeakably callus. In the name of protecting profits for pharmaceutical companies, the TPP threatens to deny access to life-saving medications to those in developing countries where these medications are desperately needed. The humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders explains that they rely extensively on generic medications in their programs to treat AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. They state that “the first generation of HIV drugs have come down in price by 99 percent over the last decade, from U.S.\$10,000 per person per year in 2000 to roughly \$60 today, thanks to generic production in India, Brazil and Thailand, where these drugs were not patented. This dramatic price drop has been instrumental in helping scale up HIV/AIDS treatment for more than six million people in developing countries. About 80 percent of donor funded anti-AIDS drugs and 92 percent of drugs to treat children with AIDS across the developing world comes from generic manufacturers.”

The TPP not only has the potential to make it more difficult for new generic drugs to be manufactured and come on the market, but it could also allow for already existing generics to be removed from availability. This is accomplished by the technique of “evergreening,” in which pharmaceutical companies are permitted to obtain or extend monopoly protection for old drugs simply by making minor modifications to existing formulas, *even though these modifications may have no effect on the drug’s efficacy*. Of course, it’s difficult to know exactly what provisions the TPP will contain, since so much of it is so very secret. But even if it’s only new generics that would be restricted, how many millions of innocent children and adults would be condemned to death by the unavailability of needed medicines? What epidemics would we allow to flourish in the name of protecting pharmaceutical profits? How can those who promote the TPP have such a total and thoughtless disregard for human life?

This is just one more reason why we must reject the TPP – this trade agreement is not about trade, it is simply about putting corporate profit ahead of every other decent human value. Let’s declare New York City a TPP-free zone!

Edie Kantrowitz
333 McDonald Avenue - #5d
Brooklyn, NY 11218

BYE BYE TPP

A

(Tune: *Bye Bye Blackbird*) Words by Corinne Willinger w
Alice Sutter, and Sunny Armer of the NYC Metro Raging
Grannies 9/12 r 1/14

(1, 2, 3, sing) (first note C#)

**Have you heard of TPP?
It's a secret, you can't see,
Bye Bye, Unions.
Transpacific Partnership,
All involved, keep closed lips,
Bye Bye, public health.**

**It was leaked that it will unleash
Waall Street.
Corporations will change laws
through dee - ceit.
Pharmaceuticals with glee,
KEEP their drug, monopoly →
World AIDS care, bye bye.**

**Our officials have agreed,
To concede, to its needs.
Bye Bye, clean air.
Pacific countries east & west
Make TPP the scariest.
Generic drugs, bye bye.**

**Clean air, clean water
and Indigenous justice,
GMO-free foods are on their hit list.
They are in the human plan
That the TPP will ban,
Bye Bye, our Rights !**

**Now Congress is bringing back
The voting rules they call Fast Track.
Bye Bye democracy.
Fast Track overrides protest.
Objections will not be addressed!
Bye Bye, transparency.**

**When e-leven nations meet for this show,
Every pledge they make can be a death blow.
Transpacific Partnership
All your powers we must strip. →
TPP - bye byyyyye!**

City Council hearing

Monday, April 27th on Int 576, the Anti-TPP zone.
10:00 AM, 250 Broadway, Committee Rm , 16th floor

NYC TPP-Free!

Testimony of Mercy Van Vlack
mercy@comicbookradioshow.com
New York City Metro Raging Grannies
New York City Safe Energy Coalition



April 27, 2015

My name is Ling Tsou. We wish to thank Council Member Helen Rosenthal for introducing Res 576 declaring the City of New York a "TPP-Free Zone".

If TPP is passed and signed into law, this would threaten our existing policies to protect clean air, water and land of our country. We would not be able to stop fracking, the Keystone XL pipeline, defend the climate and build a green economy.

TPP is a trade agreement in name only. This is an agreement negotiated in secret with 11 Pacific Rim countries. In reality 600 of the world's largest corporations, including corporations like Chevron, Halliburton, Monsanto, Walmart and many others, are helping to compile a corporate wish list while the public and even almost all the members of Congress are kept in the dark. The little we know about TPP came from texts that have been leaked. Not a word of the draft text has been officially released. Leaked texts showed that Governments signing TPP must align their national laws and regulations with the terms of the agreement which sets rules on everything including food safety, internet freedom, drug affordability, financial regulations, labor rights and environment. For example, liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports can freely cross borders of TPP signatory nations and that environmental review of the public impacts is banned. Therefore, there would be no means of stopping LNG export terminals from sending fracked gas to Asia, where it commands prices six times higher than in the U.S. Effectively, TPP would foster a fracking shale gas boom in the U.S. As if this was not enough, the TPP also expands on NAFTA's "investor state" provisions, allowing corporations to sue nations for millions of dollars in private international tribunals over laws or regulations they claim affect their "expected future profits". For example, energy firm like Lone Pine Resources has used similar rules in NAFTA to sue Canada for \$250 million over Quebec's moratorium on fracking for oil and gas. In addition, TPP will outsource more jobs and bring hardship to many American working families.

If TPP is so good for the American people and our country, why keep it such a secret from the American public and Congress? Why not release the full text and let us have a debate on the merits of this agreement?

The only way we can stop Washington's mad rush to pass the "fast track" for TPP is for people to mobilize and speak out against TPP. I'm very glad that New York City council will join the growing number of cities across the country adopting resolution to oppose TPP.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ling Tsou
United for Action
New York City

Thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to speak on bill number 576, making NYC a TPP-free zone.

My name is Ken Gale and I am the Founder of the New York City Safe Energy Coalition and the host and producer of the environmental radio show Eco-Logic on WBAI-FM here in New York City.

The Godfather movies had a line, "Nothing personal, just business." It was an illustration of Mafia immorality then, but now seems to be an accepted part of legal businesses.

NAFTA codified that attitude somewhat in the '90s and now the Trans-Pacific Partnership is looking to codify it to an extreme. Please pass this bill.

Government has a responsibility for the health and well-being of those who are governed. TPP would make that nearly impossible.

The Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act are pretty good pieces of legislation. People used to get sick from polluted air and polluted water. Some people died from that pollution. TPP, written by polluters, would find those laws a threat to "future profits" and attack them, not in public court, but a secret international tribunal. And when people get sick, they will no longer have access to generic drugs. TPP will get rid of those, too.

It's a local economic threat. Healthy workers and healthy students are more productive. Let's keep them that way. Pass this bill.

The Pacific Rim mining company already proved that corporations are willing to sue in order to *poison* people. The nation of El Salvador told them they couldn't put a gold mine in the mountains because it would put cyanide poisoning into the water supply of half the population. El Salvador was sued.

Another piece of good environmental legislation TPP would attack is the Endangered Species Act. Whether you feel those animals and plants were put on earth by God or Nature, we *do not* have a moral right to kill them. Don't allow Godfather morality to undo the Endangered Species Act. Please pass bill #576.

Still another piece of good environmental legislation TPP would attack is the City Council's own goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80%. Fossil fuel companies are writing TPP and would go after that, too.

Someone once told me that businesses are not IMmoral, they are A-moral, so long as they do what's legal. That is such a crock of, well, a word the FCC wouldn't allow me to say on the radio. Slavery was not amoral when it was legal, it was IMmoral. The chapters of TPP that would undermine hard-fought democratic freedoms are immoral, not amoral. Pass 576.

When the air or water are clean, thank an environmentalist. If not, become one. 'Nuff Said!

Thank you.

nuffsaid@riseup.net

www.nycsec.org

www.comicbookradioshow.com/eco-logic.html

FOR THE RECORD

Audrey Iszard
Testimony before the Committee on State and Federal Legislation
New York City Council
Monday, April 27, 2015

Good Morning, Members of the Committee.

My name is Audrey Iszard. I am an advocate for retirees and the Chair of the New York City Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans. I am speaking today on behalf of not just myself and all of the New York City members of the Alliance, but also the 4.3 million activists who belong to the Alliance nationally.

I've spent many years working to make sure that my fellow seniors and I will be able to retire with dignity.

Keeping our retirement secure means that we keep health care affordable for seniors. Unfortunately, the Trans-Pacific Partnership will not only deny working Americans fair wages and fail to live up to its promises, it will increase health care costs for retirees and people on Medicare. We don't know all there is to know about this deal - because most of it is secret at this point, but we do know that it reduces legal protections on prescription drug prices. It will make prices go up for all consumers and it will hurt the senior citizens who need these drugs the most. Prescription drug prices in the United States are already the highest in the world - and in 2014, they increased by 13 percent. That's too high - but if TPP passes, these increases will get worse and our retirement will be less secure.

The TPP is bad for senior citizens, and if you believe that we're going to stay on the sidelines for this fight, you're wrong. It is time that we stand as one and tell our Congress, our country, and the world that New Yorkers say "NO."

Thank you, members of the committee, for voting on Resolution 576-A. This resolution will declare that New York City is a "TPP-Free Zone" while urging Congress to reject the "fast-track" legislation that would make getting TPP approval far easier by eliminating a fair and open debate.

The Alliance for Retired Americans urges every member of the Committee to vote yes - and we urge the entire council to support the resolution as well. Now is the time to stand up to protect all our families from this bad trade deal.

We should be working to make drug costs lower and more predictable, not injecting uncertainty and opening the door to higher costs for retirees by fast tracking the TPP. I am proud that New Yorkers are taking the lead in stopping the deal. I want to tell our President and Members of Congress that we care about the well-being of workers and retirees and that we will fight for them.

Thank you.



SINCE 1962
COUNCIL OF SCHOOL
SUPERVISORS &
ADMINISTRATORS

Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, New York City
 Local 1: American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO

FOR THE RECORD

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

RES. 0576 - DECLARING THE CITY OF NEW YORK A “TPP-FREE ZONE” AND URGING CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL TRADE PRIORITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015 AND NOT GRANT PRESIDENT OBAMA “FAST-TRACK” AUTHORITY OVER, OR PERMISSION TO SIGN, THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

President
Ernest A. Logan

April 27, 2015

Executive Vice President
Mark Cannizzaro

First Vice President
Randi Herman, Ed.D.

Secretary
Sandy DiTrapani

The Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA) strongly supports the New York City Council’s resolution calling upon Congress to reject the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) free trade agreement. The CSA advocates for transparency in government, and the TPP, a proposed regional regulatory and investment treaty has been negotiated in secret. In addition, the renewal of the Fast Track Trade Promotion would require Congress to introduce and vote on the administration authored bill with limited debate and no amendments, and complete the entire process within 90 days.

Treasurer
Henry Rubio

According to recent data similar swift and silent trade agreements have resulted in the loss of countless American jobs. Among them, 60,000 factories and 5 million workers have seen their jobs moved to China and other low-wage nations. Losses that have widened the income inequity gap between the rich and the working poor.

Vice Presidents
Debra Handler
Rajinder Kaur
Lois Lee
Christopher Ogno
Ronald Williams

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), in its attempt to address concerns of the American worker in the agreement with the introduction of more than 20 proposed changes. A mere five of which have even reached the negotiating table. The CSA stands with AFL-CIO President Richard L. Trumka who noted: “The key to reforming our true policies is abolishing the outdated, unaccountable and undemocratic Fast-Track process.”

Special Vice President-Retirees
Nancy Russo

Executive Director Operations
Erminia Claudio

The majority of Congress has not been privy to the negotiations and CSA rejects this pervasive secrecy. And yet others, most notably the corporate lobbyists have actually assisted in writing the substance of the treaty. As a result, corporations stand to reap huge benefits because Congress will be forced to abrogate its authority by the minimal opportunity given to debate and amend the treaty, due to the Fast-Tract method.

Executive Director Field Services
Sana Q. Nasser

40 Rector Street, 12th Floor
 New York, NY 10006-1729

The CSA joins with New York Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO President Vincent Alvarez in reminding all New Yorkers, to “hold our Congressional delegation accountable for standing up to protect the rights of working people here in New York City, and around the country by rejecting the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal.”

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www.csa-nyc.org

A 2015 bipartisan poll done by the Wall Street Journal and NBC News concluded that 75 % of Americans think the TPP should be rejected or delayed. CSA President Ernest Logan agrees. Concealing potentially job eliminating trade deals thwarts democracy and is contrary to the foundation of a free and open democracy.

FOR THE RECORD

**New York City Council - Res. 0576-2015 - TPP April 27, 2015
Testimony of Catherine Skopic, Citizen**

The title reads, Resolution declaring the City of New York a "TPP-Free Zone" and urging Congress not to grant President Obama "fast-track" authority over, or permission to sign, the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

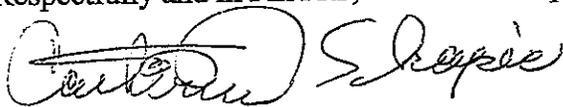
Thank you, Legislative Counsel Samara Swanston, Chair, Donovan Richards, Council Members Rosenthal, Richards, Rodriguez and all others who have signed, for introducing this resolution, understanding its potential negative impact and bringing it to the people of New York City.

This "trade agreement involves 12 countries and impacts all people and the planet. From the resolution, "Whereas, It has been reported that the agreement would include provisions concerning financial regulations, environmental protection, prescription drug pricing and food sanitation standards, the adoption of which could negatively affect the public's health, safety and welfare, and require the overhaul of America's domestic legal system; and whereas The exact terms of this proposed agreement have not been disclosed to the public, with most known details having been ascertained through unapproved 'leaks' from stakeholders," and it goes on from there with equally devastating information regarding this agreement.

I give my full support, as do thousands of my colleagues, to sign this resolution against the TPP. The precedent of declaring a municipality a TPP-Free has been established by Berkeley and Los Angeles, California, Madison and Dane County, Wisconsin; and I urge New York City to join this wisdom and continue to protect its people, as well as the planet. To do otherwise would be contrary to all our country stands for.

I am outraged that this so-called trade agreement has been conceived and is seriously being considered. To sign it would be to negate democracy itself. Thank you again, members of our New York City Council for standing up for our city, our nation and for passing this resolution against the TPP.

Thank you,
Respectfully and in PEACE, Catherine Skopic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Skopic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C".



NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO

President
VINCENT ALVAREZ

Secretary-Treasurer
JANELLA T. HINDS



Testimony on New York City Council Resolution 576 April 27, 2015

Good morning, my name is Alex Gleason, and I am the Policy Associate at the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Representing 1.3 million workers, and 300 affiliated unions, the Central Labor Council is strongly opposed to the fast-track of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP,) and in-favor of Resolution 576. Working people are being deprioritized for transnational, corporate interests. Perhaps one of the only issues with bipartisan support in Washington, the TPP will adversely affect the real income of 90% of citizens¹. What are the details of the trade deal? Unfortunately, we do not know the specifics of the bill, as negotiations have occurred in the 'quiet rooms' and corridors of power in DC.

There are a number of details we *do know* about the TPP. We know the legislation will eliminate any sort of 'buy American' clauses for procurement, giving US firms no edge in the acquisition of goods and services by the government². TPP will also create patent protections for much of the intellectual property of the world's largest corporations³; remove some of the rigorous health standards for food products sold in the United States⁴; and alter a number of regulations ensuring the safety of drugs that keep us healthy⁵. Additionally, the TPP will establish an international court to decide trade disputes with sovereignty over any individual state or institution⁶.

America has seen the result of poorly devised trade policy with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA.) for the last two decades, NAFTA has dramatically impeded the growth of the United States' domestic economy, and with it the middle-income jobs allowing workers to build wealth⁷. NAFTA has also created job and life displacement in the United States as well as Mexico. The flood of subsidized American agriculture into Mexico has effectively priced-out its own industry and workforce. Since enacting NAFTA, many Mexican farmers have been displaced from their livelihoods, and forced to migrate—sometimes dangerously—into the United States⁸. We can certainly expect worse from TPP.

Rather than empowering our states and municipal governments to facilitate economic growth, the TPP will give the largest, best-entrenched corporations a greater proportion of power and voice than currently enjoyed. The Trans-Pacific Partnership epitomizes a bad deal; it is bad for union members, non-union workers, small businesses, and the holistic well being of our city. Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ David Rosnick, "Gains from Trade? The Net Effect of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement on U.S. Wages," September 2013. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*. <http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/net-effect-of-the-tpp-on-us-wages>

² *Public Citizen*, "TPP Government Procurement Negotiations: Buy American Policy Banned, a Net Loss for the US," <https://www.citizen.org/documents/TPP-Buy-American.pdf>

³ *Wikileaks*, "Second release of secret Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement documents," December 2013, <https://wikileaks.org/Second-release-of-secret-Trans.html?update>

⁴ Gabrielle Chan, "Trans-Pacific Partnership could prevent clearer food labelling – health advocates," *The Guardian*, February 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/feb/28/trans-pacific-partnership-could-prevent-clearer-food-labelling-health-advocates>

⁵ *Public Citizen*, "The Trade Deal That Could Inflate Your Healthcare Bill," <http://www.citizen.org/documents/TPP-threats-to-US-healthcare.pdf>

⁶ Elizabeth Warren, "The Trans-Pacific Partnership clause everyone should oppose," *The Guardian*, February 2015, http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/kill-the-dispute-settlement-language-in-the-trans-pacific-partnership/2015/02/25/ec7705a2-bd1e-11e4-b274-e5209a3bc9a9_story.html

⁷ Jeff Faux, "NAFTA's Impact on US Workers," December 2013, *Economic Policy Institute*. <http://www.epi.org/blog/naftas-impact-workers/>

⁸ Antonio Yunez-Naude, "Lessons from NAFTA: The Case of Mexico's Agricultural Sector," *Final Report to the World Bank*. December 2002, http://web.worldbank.org/archive/webcontent/0894A/WEB/PDF/YUNEZ_TE.PDF

Park Slope Food Coop

"Good Food at Low Prices for Working Members through Cooperation since 1973"

INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD

April 28, 2015

Esteemed members of the NY City Council,

Gratified to have an opportunity to testify at today's hearings, we urge you to vote YES tomorrow on Res 576. Stand with Seattle and San Francisco and nearly 50 cities throughout the US. Declare NYC a 'TPP ^{Free} Zone' and urge all congress members from our region to Vote NO on Fast Track.

In support of that goal, we submit to you 14 sheets with 184 signatures that were gathered in three hours in front of our Coop on Union Street in two sessions of one and a half hours each, Saturday 4/11 and Sunday 4/19. We distributed hundreds of leaflets, and we held our 8th public forum about the Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanisms on Saturday, April 25th. We will continue to inform members and non-members about trade issues because nothing can be done in secret if we intend to live in a democracy.

We call upon you to fulfill your responsibility to govern our city. On issues such as 'Buy local' & public purchases, food labeling, resource extraction & transportation, drug prices, internet access and many others, we rely on you and other legislators to represent us and make the laws and regulations that maintain and enhance our quality of life.

With much appreciation for the opportunity to come before you this morning, we thank council members Rosenthal for initiating the resolution and council member Koslowitz for bringing the resolution to the floor of the council and for scheduling public hearings. We prevail upon each council member to vote YES on Res 576 and to encourage congress members to vote NO on Fast Track.

Respectfully,



Ann Garvin and Susan Metz, for the ITES of the PSFC

Queens, New York
April 27th 2015
Hearing on Resolution # 576

Dear New York City Council Members.

We, the small businesses in New York have been undermined by the unfair competition that allows big chain stores to brutally expand, while their products are made overseas with enslaved hands. Locally this trend is sponsored by policies that seek tax exemptions for developers and real state corporations while subject part of the needed investment on our communities to the creation of Business Improvement Districts that require new property taxes raising our rents.

At the National level, the deficit in manufacturing output, driven by free trade agreements, entails the lost of diversity of local economies. Any local business lost is also the lost of our ability to generate better products that meet local demands for consumers increasingly concerned about our environment and public health issues.

We all know how important is the international commerce to generate jobs, to keep prices under control or have access to good quality products. Competition is also important to keep our economic diversity where companies of all size can thrive. However, we also know that the so call FREE TRADE is a way to call the deepest regulation of the market in favor of very specific group of monopolistic interest.

Now is clear Free trade agreements are deleterious for our manufacturing output. The Clinton administration promised that NAFTA would generate 200,000 jobs between 1993 and 1995 and that during the second decade our trade balance would be 12 billion dollars annually in favor of US. Now we know that we lost more than 700,000 jobs mainly in our car industry and we have a negative commercial balance of 100 billion dollars with Mexico alone.

Our manufacturing trade deficit is even worse with China and our trade deficit is more than 300 billion.

In 2012 Obama Administration estimate that the trade agreement with Korea would increase our exports in 11 billion and would support 70,000 American jobs from exports alone, in reality we lost 40,000 jobs with Korea and our exports have fallen 3.5 billion. In 2011 our deficit with Korea was 13 billion, in 2014 the commercial deficit with Korea was 22 billion.

A true economic recovery, from the bottom, the one that reduce our income inequality, depends on small businesses competing on a more level playing field. Let's all remember: small businesses are more likely to develop emerging technologies than larger firms, with 16 times more patents per employee than the larger firms. Small business accounted for 60% of new jobs creation.

If TPP were approved, local policies for a true economic recovery, would receive lawsuits in international courts, if corporations considered that these might reduce their profits. The litigation against our communities would undermine citizens' initiatives as those that: seek to encourage the consumption of local products; defend the democratization of

credit; advocate for the protection of water sources from fracking; seek to raise wages; recall products that are harmful to the public health; seek to control the skyrocketing rents and limit the expansion of Business Improvement Districts in our neighborhoods.

Finally, we wonder: Without public debate, without public hearings with citizens and scientific experts and, even worse, without knowing exactly what they are voting for, where is the legitimacy of our Congress?

If this vote goes via fast track, our dream for a better democracy, the one that represents over 320 million American citizens, will die on the desk of those representatives of the 600 corporations who wrote the TPP.

Freddy Castiblanco
Small Business Owner of Terraza 7
Queens New York

Don't Trade Away Our Health

By JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ JAN. 30, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/31/opinion/dont-trade-away-our-health.html?_r=0

Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, a professor at Columbia and a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, is the author of "The Price of Inequality."

A secretive group met behind closed doors in New York [last January for the TPP].... What they decided may lead to higher drug prices for you and hundreds of millions around the world.

Powerful companies appear to have been given influence over the proceedings, even as full access is withheld from many government officials from the partnership countries.

Trade agreements, and in particular individual provisions within them, are typically far more difficult to alter or repeal than domestic laws.... What's clear is that the overall thrust of the intellectual property section of the T.P.P. is for less competition and higher drug prices.

Of course, pharmaceutical companies claim they need to charge high prices to fund their research and development. This just isn't so. For one thing, drug companies spend more on marketing and advertising than on new ideas.

If big pharmaceutical companies hold sway — as the leaked documents indicate they do — the T.P.P. could block cheaper generic drugs from the market. Big PhRMA's profits would rise, at the expense of the health of patients and the budgets of consumers and governments.

The whole world may come to pay a price in the form of worse health and unnecessary deaths.

Statement from Isabel Rostrer, Fellow, STUDENT GLOBAL AIDS CAMPAIGN

“The trans-pacific partnership will allow big pharmaceutical companies to maintain or increase their monopolies on brand name drugs and prevent generic drugs from entering the market. The TPP could have devastating consequences for people around the globe who need access to life saving medicines. We cannot allow big pharma to increase its profits at the expense of patients' health and lives.”

Statement from Josh Fox, prize-winning documentary film-maker and environmental activist:

TPP proponents will tell you otherwise, but we know from leaked chapters that this deal will have disastrous consequences for the anti-fracking movement. Hidden provisions allow corporations to sue national, state, and local governments for passing environmental protections that interfere with their profits. Under a similar NAFTA rule, a company called Lone Pine sued the Canadian government for \$250 million for passing a fracking ban. The TPP will also make it harder for the US to manage its natural gas exports, encouraging more fracking to satisfy foreign markets like Japan. This deal could undo years of grassroots activism and threaten the health and safety of our communities.

(OVER)

Sing along with the NYC METRO
Raging Grannies and Their Daughters!

Trans Pacific Partnership Key **D** first note **D**

(to *Old Mac Donald*)

lyrics by Alice Sutter and the NYC Metro Raging Grannies

Trans Pacific Partnership
TPP Ohhhh Noooo!
Our world will tremble in its grip
TPP Ohhhh Noooo!

Grabbing big bucks here. Grabbing big bucks there.
Here a buck. There a buck. Everywhere a buck buck.
Trans Pacific Partnership, TPP Ohhhh Noooo!

600 corporations and 11 countries
Can knock the whole planet to its knees!
Trans Pacific Partnership
TPP Ohhhh Noooo!

Clean air clean water mean "restraint of trade"
They'll never clean up the mess they made.
Workers rights? Bans on fracking?
Food safety? Send it all packing!!

Ban generic drugs. Send the prices high,
Mo-ore folks'll get sick and die.
Trans Pa-ci-fic Part-ner---ship
T- P- P- must go!!!

Crony Capitalists **D**

(Tune: *My Little Playmate*) by Nora Freeman, NYC-Metro
Gaggle 10/27/12 w Pam rev.

(*Nora*)- "*BFFs*" stands for "*best friends forever*".
(1, 2, sing)

Capitalist cronies, Are not our BFFs
Don't want us to be free, Make deals like TPP
That's Trans-Pacific, Partnership, to be clear
The jobs that we have here, We'll have no more.

Clean air and water, Will soon be luxuries
Farewell to workers' rights, In TP Paradise
That's Toilet Paper, Revving up climate change
Our world they'll rearrange, Once unconstrained.

We are the NNP, That's Ninety Nine Percent
And we must make a choice,
Let's generate some noise
For human beings, And the environment
Let's show the one percent, The exit door!

email – Mercy

raginggrannies@comicbookradioshow.com

www.nycmetro.raginggrannies.org

Now on Facebook!

BYE BYE TPP

A

(Tune: *Bye Bye Blackbird*) Words by Corinne Willinger w
Alice Sutter, and Sunny Armer NYC Metro Raging
Grannies 9/12 r 1/14

(1, 2, 3 sing) (first note C#)

Have you heard of TPP?

It's a secret, you can't see,
Bye Bye, unions.

Transpacific Partnership,
All involved, keep closed lips,
Bye Bye, public health.

It was leaked that it will unleash Waaall Street.
Corporations will change laws through deee_ceit.
Pharmaceuticals with glee,
KEEP their drug, monopoly →
World AIDS care, bye bye.

Our officials have agreed,
To concede, to its needs.
Bye Bye, clean air.
Pacific countries east & west
Make TPP the scariest.
Generic drugs, bye bye.

Clean air, clean water and Indigenous justice,
GMO-free foods are on their hit list.
They are in the human plan
That the TPP will ban,
Bye Bye, our Rights !

Now Congress is bringing back
The voting rules they call Fast Track.
Bye Bye democracy.
Fast Track overrides protest.
Objections will not be addressed.
Bye Bye transparency.

When e-leven nations meet for this show,
Every pledge they make can be a death blow.
Transpacific Partnership
All your powers we must strip. →
TPP - bye byyye!

In the tradition of wise women elders, the mission of the
"Raging Grannies" is to promote global peace, justice,
and social and economic equality by raising public
awareness through the medium of song and humor.

Started in 1987 in Victoria, BC, there are now more
than 60 gaggles of "Raging Grannies" throughout Canada
& the U.S.

RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS "D"
(tune: "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain") start on A
Lyrics adapted by Kay Thode of the Seattle Raging Grannies,
Vicki Ryder of Rochester/So Flo and Sunny Armer
NYMetro/Westchester RGs. R 5/4/2010 re-r 6/13/2010

**Raging Grannies are environmentalists,
Yes, we're radical environmentalists.
You will hear us rage and ro-oar
When oil spills reach our sho-ores,
'Cause we're radical environmentalists!**

**Oh, we like our veggies without pesticides,
Dairy products without hormones dumped inside.
We like clean air and clean water,
For our planet's sons and daughters
'Cause we're radical environmentalists.**

**We never eat food grown from gene-spliced seeds.
And we don't care if our lawns are full of weeds.
We like forests filled with old trees,
And rivers with no PCBs.
We're radical environmentalists!**

**Oh, we don't like energy from fossil fuels,
'Cause we know they poison earth, we ain't no fools!
We'd rather look at windmill blades
Than Indian Point near the Palisades.
We're radical environmentalists!**

**We bring our shopping bags when we buy food,
And we want to change consumer attitude
Recycle bottles, cans and paper, (slowly)
Show your love for Mother Nature,
Become a true environmentalist!**

Corporations Run the World D
(Tune: "California Here We Come") Words by Sunny Armer &
Corinne Willinger, with technical help from Susan Lee. R 5/12

(First note D)

Corporations here they come, causing pandemonium.

**✓Supreme Court, rewards them,
and lets them expand.
✓And now that, they're unleashed,
our elec-tions they com-mand.**

**They can make us cower more. →
They can buy their power more. →
All their greed can flower more. →
Corporations run the world.**

**Great big banks are here to stay,
Wall Street firms won't go away.
(1, 2) They're better, than human; can't go to jail.
(cont'd) →→→→↑**

**✓And Congress, preserves them,
saying they're too big to fail.**

**Elections should not be bankrolled
By companies with lots of gold.
Votes should not be bought and sold.
Corporations run the world.**

**Jobs are going up in smoke.
States and towns are going broke,
✓Our highways, and bridges, need major repairs,
✓But Congress, insists that,
they haven't got a buck to spare.**

**Make corporations pay their share, ✓
And tax every billionaire;
Our deficit will disappear,
Let the peo-ple run the world!**

Take action—join the Raging Grannies & DO something!! Please.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP: an international free trade agreement being written behind closed doors by 600 transnational corporations. Find out more at:

www.nycsec.org, www.tradejustice.net, citizenstrade.org.

REDUCE OIL CONSUMPTION: It's not just gasoline, oil is used to make thousands of products that could be made with sustainable materials. Conserve oil - bring your own bags, don't take plastic bags at the market.

BETTER CHOCOLATE: Stop chocolate manufacturers supporting child labor - <http://www.raisethebarhershey.org>

FREE POLITICAL PRISONERS: Chelsea Manning Support Network: www.chelseamanning.org, www.couragetoresist.org, www.thejerichomovement.com, www.freemumia.com 212-330-8029. Leonard Peltier NYC chapter nycplpdoc@gmail.com, BringMumiaHome.com,

Help for our critically ill, framed activist journalist, political prisoner Mumia abu Jamal is urgently needed. Call Sec. of the Department of Justice in Pa. - John Wetzel. 717 728-4109 to demand that Mumia receive outside medical care of his choice, and the visitors he requests every day.

PARDON EDWARD SNOWDEN: "We the People Edward Snowden" for petition- <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/pardon-edward-snowden/Dp03vGYD>, & ACLU.org to protect (or maybe reinstate) our civil liberties.

NYCSEC - New York City Safe Energy Coalition: Close Indian Point, Grow the renewable energy industry, & make NYC buildings more energy efficient. No one of these things will make the other two happen automatically, but working on all three together could make all three happen faster. Meet first & third Thursday every month, 6:30 pm.

Check our web page for locale, www.nycsec.org, and now on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/NYCSEC>.

For those of you who enjoyed the songs
and wanna sing with The NYC
RAGING GRANNIES and THEIR DAUGHTERS
here's a number to call: **917 626 5674**. Come join us!

Or email Mercy:

raginggrannies@comicbookradioshow.com

**Testimony in Support of Resolution 576 Declaring NYC a “TPP-Free Zone” to the NYC
Council Committee on Federal and State Legislation
April 27, 2015**

**Pete Sikora
NYS Legislative/Political Director
Communications Workers of America – District One**

Hello, my name is Pete Sikora and I am the NYS Legislative/Political Director for CWA District One. We represent about 35,000 union members in a wide range of sectors living and working in New York City. CWA represents public sector, health care, telecommunications, manufacturing, media and other workers.

I will cover Fast Track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership’s (TPP) disastrous impact on jobs, wages, employment and income inequality. But I want to note that the treaty, if it’s Fast Tracked and approved, will also damage the safety of our food, increase air and water pollution, raise the price of vital prescription drugs, impede internet freedom, and eliminate consumer protections from Wall Street banks, among other serious effects.

Every so-called “free trade” deal is sold the same way by its proponents: it will create jobs through increased exports. Free traders, such as President Obama in this case, almost always talk about jobs “supported” by the deals. They ignore the impact of imports.

That’s how the Obama Administration sold the most recent big deal, KORUS. The Administration and the assorted corporate interests told us that the deal would “support 70,000 American jobs”¹ But in the first three years of the deal, **the U.S. goods trade deficit with Korea ballooned an estimated 84 percent, or \$12.7 billion** (comparing the year before the FTA took effect to the projected third full year of implementation). That corresponds to a net loss of 85,000 American jobs.² That’s the pattern of these bad deals: the deal is sold as a job creator for American jobs, then the deal is pushed through Congress, signed, and goes into effect - and the trade deficit promptly soars with that country or countries. While some export supported jobs are created, *net* jobs are lost.

Let’s look at the numbers: the aggregate U.S. goods trade deficit with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners is more than five times as high as before the deals went into effect, while the aggregate trade deficit with non-FTA countries has actually fallen. The aggregate U.S. trade deficit with FTA partners has increased by about \$144 billion, or 427 percent, since the FTAs were implemented. In contrast, the aggregate trade deficit

¹ https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/fact_sheet_overview_us_korea_free_trade_agreement.pdf

² <http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=3595>

with all non-FTA countries has decreased by about \$95 billion, or 11 percent, since 2006 (the median entry date of existing FTAs). Growth of U.S. exports to FTA partners has been 20 percent lower than U.S. export growth to the rest of the world over the last decade (comparing annual average growth of 5.3 percent to non-FTA nations vs. 4.3 percent to FTA nations from 2004 to 2014).³ Using the Obama administration's net exports – to – jobs ratio, the FTA trade deficit growth implies the loss of about 780,000 U.S. jobs. (NAFTA, by the way, is the worst culprit here)

Successive bad trade deals have greatly enhanced the ability of big investors and multinational corporations to move capital through investment flows and stronger contract rights – and therefore move jobs. These deals are greasing the skids of outsourcing and offshoring. Tens of thousands of CWA members have lost their jobs due to outsourcing and off-shoring. In New York State, just one company, Verizon, has moved over 1,000 call center jobs from New York to other countries. Those were good, middle-class union jobs, all moved overseas to cut costs. Economists estimate that approximately 20% of jobs currently can be off-shored. That includes everything from manufacturing to call center work and back-office functions to medical imaging. There is a huge range of good, middle-class jobs that can be outsourced.

The other side acts as if technological change is the only force making outsourcing easier. Don't believe it: these deals are critical to allowing corporations to move jobs to the lowest pay countries that have the weakest environmental, health, safety and labor protections. Job loss to off-shoring is not an inevitable consequence of technological advancement. It's a conscious set of policy choices that maximize corporate profits over the interests of American workers. (By the way, these deals also hurt workers overseas. NAFTA, for example, devastated small farmers in Mexico. All of those lost jobs and desperate people are a key driver of cross-border migration)

The TPP is biggest deal yet. It's a secret deal whose provisions are being negotiated behind closed doors, because they could never stand the light of day and pass as stand-alone legislation. We only know what's in the TPP because of leaks of the negotiating texts.

The TPP would grant multinational and foreign corporations unprecedented rights over our laws at the Federal, State and Local level. And it grants these rights to foreign corporations based in countries such as Vietnam, where the minimum wage is 52 cents an hour.

For example, the TPP would prevent the City of New York from establishing local or domestic purchasing requirements for contracts. The City could no longer conduct preferential contracting to strengthen our local economy. In fact, if the City did so, it would be subject to lawsuit in a private trade tribunal by a foreign corporation.

³ <http://www.citizen.org/documents/FTA-V-No-FTA-Factsheet.pdf>

The corporation could sue to recover “expected future profits” lost and demand taxpayer compensation for these lost profits. The City of New York would have to pay to compensate a foreign corporation.

The leaked Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) chapter is simply terrifying. It grants expansive rights to investors. Investment itself is defined in the leaked text as “every asset that an investor owns or controls, directly or indirectly, that has the characteristics of an investment, including such characteristics as the commitment of capital or other resources, the expectation of gain or profit, or the assumption of risk” (Article II.1). The text goes on to enumerate as examples regulatory permits; intellectual property rights; financial instruments such as stocks and derivatives; “construction, management, production, concession, revenue-sharing, and other similar contracts;” and “licenses, authorizations, permits, and similar rights conferred pursuant to domestic law.”

The chapter’s new rights and protections would extend to investments already existing before the TPP. It would permit compensation claims even over failed attempts to make an investment, with the low standard to qualify for attempting to invest being “concrete action or actions to make an investment, such as channeling resources or capital in order to set up a business, or applying for permits or licenses.” The expansive definitions would allow attacks on a vast array of non-discriminatory domestic policies and government actions from health and land use policies to construction permits and financial regulation.⁴

The leaked text shows that foreign investors would be able to demand compensation if new policies that apply to domestic and foreign firms alike undermine their “expectations” of how they should be treated. This includes a right to claim damages for government actions (such as new environmental, health or financial policies) that reduce the value of a foreign firm’s investment (Article II.7 and Annex II – B on indirect expropriation) or that go against the expected level of regulatory scrutiny that an investor might have had when dealing with a previous government (Article II.6 on minimum standard of treatment).⁵

These provisions would be a bonanza for multinational corporations. The deal would restrain the City of New York – and other levels of government – from law-making that might inhibit “expected future profits”. That’s why it is hard to imagine that the City would be willing to run afoul of the treaty and pass or continue to enforce local contracting requirements or other domestic purchasing, which would lead to lost jobs locally.

⁴ <https://wikileaks.org/tpp-investment/TPP-Investment-Chapter-Analysis.pdf>

⁵ *ibid*

You should not believe the hype that New York City, as a center of international commerce, benefits from these agreements. In fact, we've lost massive numbers of jobs partly due to these bad deals. For example, in 2000, there were about 173,000 manufacturing workers in this city. Now there are 76,000.⁶ (according to the most recent data available from the NYS DOL). While manufacturing job losses aren't exclusively the result of these deals, the current "free" trade model is a very substantial driver. The same is true of lost call center jobs – and job losses in many other sectors from back-office functions to medical technology. Free traders say that these job losses are dwarfed by the gains from trade, but those gains are hyped and do not compensate. To take one example, Rep. Greg Meeks often cites JFK jobs as a reason to be a free trade deal supporters. Yet employment at JFK actually has not increased over time. Certainly, there are some jobs created by these deals, but they are hugely outnumbered by job losses. The free-traders' arguments are simply a mirage.

Finally, as President Obama, Mayor de Blasio, and many Councilmembers have said, growing income inequality is the great challenge of our time. There is a broad academic consensus that our trade deals have fueled the growth of inequality.⁷ For analysts and researchers, the question isn't *whether* trade deals have increased American income inequality, it's *how much* trade deals have increased income inequality. It's easy to see why: the main losers in these deals are middle and lower-income communities, including disproportionately communities of color. The main beneficiaries of the current regime are the corporate executive and investor class. The evidence suggests that somewhere between 10 and 40 percent of the growth of US inequality is a result of trade flows.

For these and other reasons, CWA and every other national labor union oppose Fast Track, which is the legislative process to ram the TPP through Congress. That unity of opposition is simply unprecedented. Our unified opposition reflects our practical experience trying to protect and create good American jobs. It also reflect the growing body of academic evidence that these so-called "free" trade deals are ruining America.

The world, led by the U.S., should move to a new model of trade that emphasizes raising standards, not fueling a global race to the bottom that enhances corporate profits and a global elite's wealth at everyone else's expense. Trade can generate real gains, but the TPP will not. It will devastate our communities if it is enacted. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our support for the Resolution.

⁶ <https://labor.ny.gov/stats/ins.asp>

⁷ <http://www.citizen.org/documents/memo-trade-and-us-income-inequality.pdf>

FOR THE RECORD



PARTNERSHIP
for New York City

**WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

HEARING ON PROPOSED RESO. 576-A

**KATHRYN WYLDE
PRESIDENT & CEO**

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015

Thank you Chairwoman Koslowitz and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide comments on Reso. 576-A, which calls upon the Congress to oppose the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 and not grant President Obama "fast-track" authority over, or permission to sign, the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

The Partnership represents the city's business leadership and is focused on growing the economy to create good jobs for New Yorkers. The opportunity to level the playing field for New York companies seeking to access markets in the Trans-Pacific will stimulate job growth in New York and allow our local companies to compete effectively with global competitors.

As of 2014, the value of goods and services exported from the U.S. reached a record \$2.35 trillion - up 2.9% - and accounted for 11.7 million export-related jobs. Despite this tremendous growth, American firms only access 1% of the 95% of consumers who live outside of the U.S., leaving enormous untapped market potential.

As the nation's second largest exporting metro region, New York plays a significant role in the international economy - generating \$107 billion in export activity in 2013. Countries negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership purchased 25% of the New York Metro region's exported goods in 2013. When it comes to export of services, firms in New York City - in finance, technology, media, business and professional services, and real estate - have a substantial footprint in global trade, accounting for \$31.9 billion, or 58%, of the State's total exports.

(cont.)

The trade agreements will expand access to global markets for U.S. firms. An estimated 5,800 jobs are created for every \$1 billion of new export activity. Export industries also offer better paying jobs. For every \$10 billion in sales in a metro export industry, its workers earn 10-20% higher wages than those in non-exporting jobs.

The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 will help ensure high-standard outcomes in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and other significant trade initiatives. We cannot allow other nations to set the rules. We must do all possible to level the playing field and ensure the U.S. has leverage in global commerce.

A successful TPP agreement would likely spur new foreign direct investment into the United States that would expand America's production and trade ties with the world by boosting the attractiveness of the U.S.'s position in global supply network. There are an estimated 830 businesses in New York State that are subsidiaries of businesses headquartered in TPP countries. TPP will encourage further investment by those companies in New York State leading to an increase in jobs and overall economic growth.

We strongly urge the Council to not move forward with the passage of Reso. 576-A. New York is an international city that absolutely depends on global trade relations to sustain its strong economy. We should be supporting the President and the bipartisan leaders of Congress who are trying to build more open and expansive trade relationships.



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To: Members of the New York City Council

April 2015

From: New York City Residents

We, the undersigned residents of NYC, with grave concerns about how secretly-negotiated trade agreements may affect the City Council's ability to protect our health, safety, environment; labor rights and many other aspects of our daily lives, call upon you to co-sponsor Helen Rosenthal's Res. No. 576 declaring the City of New York a "TPP-Free Zone". Please urge Councilmember Koslowitz to bring the resolution out of committee so that New Yorkers have an opportunity to participate in public hearings.

Signature	Print name	Street Address	Zip code
	TAL SAMSON BATAAT	725 4th AVE	11232
	Jenny Mulvey	↓ 725 4 th Ave	11232
	Chris Gordon Owen	705 Union St.	11215
	Thomas P. Owen	705 Union St	11215
	ANDREA MO	50 Jackson Place	11231
	Kevin Kyau	863 Carroll St	11215
	Erin Case	863 Carroll St	11215
	Lisa North	10 Ocean Parkway	11218
	Sigal Gino	1927 Kings highway	11229
	SCARLETT GIESBRECHT	1375 DeKalb ave	11221
	Tristanne Walliser	803 Union Street	11215
	ELIZABETH CHAMBERS	777 East 10th Street	11213
	PATRICIA HODGES	334 E 9 th ST.	11226
	Hilary Leavitt	739 Union St.	11215
	Johanna Lehander	450 Third st apt 1L	11215
	JESSE LESSINGER	905 Ditmars Ave	11218

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Signature	Print name	Street Address	Zip code
	Franklin Foster	8520 Foster Ave	11236
	ANDREW FARRELL	1755 E. 13th ST. APT. 07	11229
	Roberta Greenough	442 4th St Bklyn	11215
	KRISTIN SOERIANATA	189 E. 18th St. Bklyn NY	11226
	Leah Kopperman	381 Douglass St. #2B Brooklyn NY	11217
	Valene Lieber	381 Douglass St #2B Brooklyn, NY	11217
	Dicu Killian	340 Decatur St Bklyn, NY 11233	11233
	Gloria Stuce	1186 PARK PLACE	11212
	Kim Ives	547 Argyle Rd, Bklyn, NY	11230
	Julia Fitzgerald	521 41st St #07, Bklyn NY	11232
	Hans van Nieuwen	521 41st St #D2 Brooklyn NY	11232
	Karen Douglas	235 Putnam Ave Bklyn	11216
	Jennifer Ross	392 Bergen st	11217
	Carly Werthum	134 Smith St, Brooklyn NY	11201
	John Hanson	792 PRESIDENT ST	11215
	Susan May	352A 9th St.	11205
	R. Zamarski	81 Flagg Rd, Hfd. Ct	06117

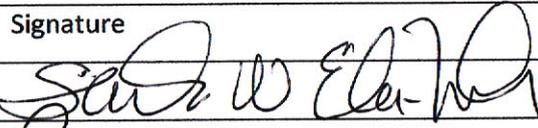
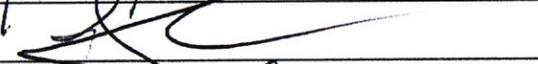
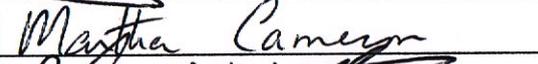
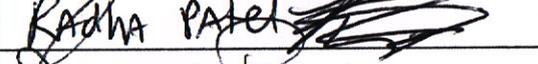
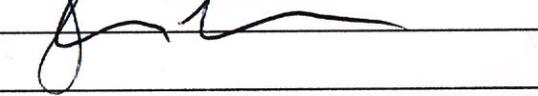
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April 2015

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We, the undersigned residents of NYC, with grave concerns about how secretly-negotiated trade agreements may affect the City Council's ability to protect our health, safety, environment; labor rights and many other aspects of our daily lives, call upon you to co-sponsor Helen Rosenthal's Res. No. 576 declaring the City of New York a "TPP-Free Zone". Please urge Councilmember Koslowitz to bring the resolution out of committee so that New Yorkers have an opportunity to participate in public hearings.

Signature	Print name	Street Address	Zip code
	Sandra W Eber-Nolde	218 11th St Bklyn NY	11215
	Rana Boland	565 Carroll St. NY	11215
	Ely Wil	1780 St Marks Ave	11213
	Martha Cameron	696 President St.	11215
	Radha Patel	354 2nd St. Apt 3B	11215
	Ronnie Berc	404 4th St 7 BKLYN	11215
	Glenn Schembri	307 6th Ave BKlyn NY	11215
	Alex Thib	126 4th Ave Bklyn NY	11217

To: Members of the New York City Council

April 2015

From: New York City Residents

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Signature	Print name	Street Address	Zip code
	PHELM KLINE	362 E. Parkway	11225
	STEVE DACEY	2303 AVE D	91226
	Hannah Coleman	1500 Bedford ave	11216
	Jean Ubigman	483 17 th	11215
	Susan Metz	409 Park Place	11238
	Edmund G	354 2nd St.	11988
	Sharon Peters	498 11 th St.	11215
	Chris Marshall	426 2 nd St	11215
	Carol Wald	418 St Johns Pl # 6B	11238
	RAUL ROTHBLATT	119 PROSPECT PL	11217
	James Wong	407 6 th Ave	11215
	Bonnie Brown	206 26 St	11238
	Bela August Walker	105 Lincoln Rd # 5C	11225
	Jennika A Flynn	"	"
	Ute Reyes-Ermizchi	431 Hales St. # 5 J	11201
	ROBERT C ROSEN	32 Morse Ave EO (Rosen)	01017

To: Members of the New York City Council

April 2015

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Signature	Print name	Street Address	Zip code
	John Mogulescu	396 9th St	11215
	Leah Concannon	1108 Dean St	11216
	Bret Eynon	482 12th St	11215
	RICHARD HART	115 GARFIELD PLACE	11215
	JOSEPH HOLTZ	678 Canal St	11215
	Pamela Gapers	47 Rugby Rd	11226
	W. Town	224 GARFIELD	11215
	Edith P. Newman	252 12th St, 4E	11215
	CAROL CORKE	853 MIDWOOD ST	11203
	MYRA PODORSON	486 2nd St	11215
	Gil Podorson	486 2nd St BKlyn	11215
	Tobia Newfeld	313 23 St 2A Brooklyn, NY	11215
	Craig Roberts	247 6th Ave Brooklyn NY	11215
	GERARDO PENIQUE	595 11th ST Bklyn NY	11215

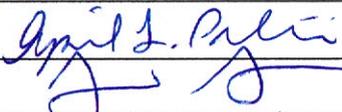
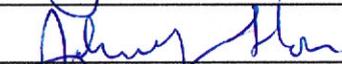
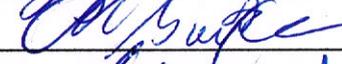
14

To: Members of the New York City Council

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From: New York City Residents

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Signature	Print name	Street Address	Zip code
	April PALMIERI	370 OCEAN PARKWAY	11218
	TODD SHALOM	506 RENTS AVE #3B BROOKLYN NY	11225
	Johnny Hon	2176 Ford St Brooklyn NY	11229
	JOSEPHINE MOORE	2176 FORD STREET BROOKLYN NY	11229
	Chris Galle	210 6th Ave Bklyn NY	11215
	DV Nayak	842 President	11215

To: Members of the New York City Council

April 2015

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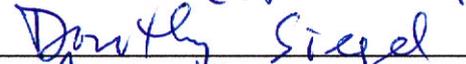
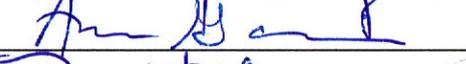
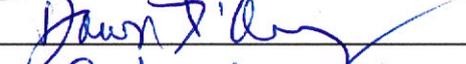
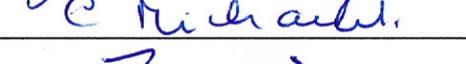
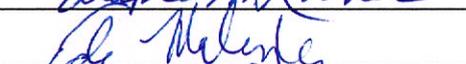
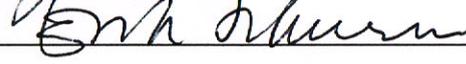
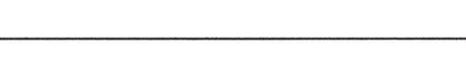
Signature	Print name	Street Address	Zip code
	Jennifer Herbert	322 Prospect Ave 312	11215
	Clare Larson	39 IRVING PL. BROOKLYN, NY	11238
	Carol Becker	542 E 4th St	11219
	CHRISTOPHER McDUALOPE	45 ST PAULS PLACE BROOKLYN NY	11226
	Justin Denton	352 Eastern Pkwy 29 Brodly 112	11221
	ALEXA NALCA	635 Carroll St Brooklyn	11215
	Phoebe Berg	182 5th Ave, #4F, BKlyn	11217
	THOMAS GALLAGHER	182 5TH AVE 4F BKLYN NY	11217
	SUSAN MELTZER	674 CARROLL ST BKLYN NY	11215
	MARGARET MURRAY	1655 Flatbush Ave 81002	11210
	Jane Kunitz	10 Plaza St E 11238	11238
	Marie Coons	280 Ocean Parkway	11218
	M SABIR	"	11215

To: Members of the New York City Council

April 2015

From: New York City Residents

We, the undersigned residents of NYC, with grave concerns about how secretly-negotiated trade agreements may affect the City Council's ability to protect our health, safety, environment; labor rights and many other aspects of our daily lives, call upon you to co-sponsor Helen Rosenthal's Res. No. 576 declaring the City of New York a "TPP-Free Zone". Please urge Councilmember Koslowitz to bring the resolution out of committee so that New Yorkers have an opportunity to participate in public hearings.

Signature	Print name	Street Address	Zip code
	Samuel S. Abram	230 Clinton St.	11201
	Dorothy Siegel	230 Clinton St	11201
	Ann Garvin	446 Bergen St	11217
	DAWN D'ARCY	302 80th St	11209
	CLAUDINE MICHAUD	50 PLAZA SQ BROOKLYN	11238
	LOUIS GARDIERI	95 ST MARKS AVE	11217
	Brandi Lewis	179 4th AVE	11217
	Myra Hauber	151 Berkeley Place	11217
	Maya Suresh	207 8th ave	11215
	ALAN ROSNER	861 PACIFIC ST	11238
	EDA MALIENKY	861 PACIFIC ST	11238
	Sammy Chen	131 7th AVE.	11215
	Srna Dubois Curtis	2126 Mermaid Av #3F	11224
	Jason Lee	598 President St, 4E	11215
	ERIK SCHURINK	181 ST. JOHN'S PLACE	11217

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[Message](#)[Details](#)[Attachments](#)[Headers](#)[Source](#)[HTML](#)

From: "Bart DeCoursy" <bart@sidecarbrooklyn.com>
Date: 4/22/2015 8:30:53 PM
To: "mviverito@council.nyc.gov" <mviverito@council.nyc.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Resolution 576

To: Members of the City Council
From: Residents of New York City

Attached are eight sheets that contain 105 signatures that were gathered by four members in 90 minutes in front of the Park Slope Food Coop on Saturday afternoon, April 11th. We will continue to gather signatures and send them to you.

We call upon you to co-sponsor Res 576, introduced by Helen Rosenthal, to "Make NYC a TPP Free Zone." We call upon you to ask council member Karen Koplowitz to bring the resolution out of committee and hold public hearings so that city residents can comment and consult.

The petition is being circulated by the International Trade Education Squad of the Park Slope Food Coop. At the General Meeting in September of 2014, coop members voted to form a work squad to keep our 16,400 members informed about Fast Track legislation and the TPP. We felt the need to assign member-labor to bring our community reliable information on this extremely impactful proposal. Negotiations are kept secret and the media has not thoroughly reported on the negotiations nor the the positions of members of congress. We feel that we are entitled to the full text with the ability to participate in a full debate of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and any other future trade agreements.

Congress is assigned the responsibility of overseeing foreign trade by the US Constitution. Because a trade agreement enters our system as a treaty, it overrules the ability of elected officials at all levels of government to make laws and regulations. The Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism subjects rules and regulations promulgated by you and the NYC Council to being contested in a private tribunal that can award tax-payer money in penalties if corporate lawyers rule that investors' profits have been affected by laws that the members of the City Council enact. Such a court has no ground rules nor accountability.

We urge you to please co-sponsor Resolution 576. Prevail upon Council Member Koplowitz to bring Res 576 out of the committee and to hold public hearings so that comments offered in an open consultation can be considered.

Thank you for your attention. This request is urgent. Respectfully and with appreciation we await a message that you have received this letter and the attached petition. We await your position on this request so that we can publicize it to the 16,400 members of our community.

Thank you,
International Trade Education Squad
Park Slope Food Coop

Close

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From: "Jessica Walker" <jwalker@pfnyc.org>

Date: 4/27/2015 12:02:51 PM

To: "Jessica Walker" <jwalker@pfnyc.org>

Cc:

Subject: Comments on Reso. 576-A - Declaring NYC a "TPP-Free Zone"

Attached are comments submitted by the Partnership for New York City at today's Council hearing on Reso. 576-A. The resolution would urge the Congress to oppose the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 and not grant President Obama "fast-track" authority over, or permission to sign, the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

As always, we look forward to working with the Council to support the creation of good jobs for New Yorkers.

Many thanks,

Jessica Walker
Vice President, Government Affairs
The Partnership for New York City
One Battery Park Plaza, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Phone/Fax: (212) 493-7474
www.pfnyc.org

[Close](#)

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LEANDRA REQUENA

Address: 35-27 81ST STREET

I represent: PERUVIANS IN ACTION

Address: 35-27 81ST ST. Apt. 4J Jackson H
11372

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 0576-2015

in favor in opposition

Date: April 24, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Catherine Skopie

Address: 140 West Broadway, NYC 10013

I represent: PCML-NY, IMAC-

Address: People's Climate Movement New York

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4.27.15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tamara Velasquez

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 576 Res. No. 576

in favor in opposition

Date: 27 Apr '15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KEN GALE

Address: 220 E 85th St A5R NYC 10028

I represent: NYC SAFE ENERGY COALITION, ECO-LOGIC, WBAI-FM

Address: POB 1028 NYC 10028

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 576 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: APR 27, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MEROY VAN VLACK

Address: 220 E 85th St, NYC 10028

I represent: Raging Grannies, NYC Safe Energy Coalition

Address: NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Oline Frenel

Address: 305 West 72nd St.

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ling Tsou

Address: 80 Beekman St. NYC 10038

I represent: United for Action

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 576

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alex Gleason, NYC Central Labor Council

Address: 275 7th Ave

I represent: NYC Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Address: 275 7th Ave 18th floor, New York, NY 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Edie Kantrowitz

Address: _____

I represent: United for Action, NYC Friends of Clear Water

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 576

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: David Lieberman

Address: _____

I represent: Marissa Lieberman Klein

Address: 3242 33rd St. Astoria

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PETE SIKORA - ~~24~~

Address: 20 PINE ST 27M FL.

I represent: CWA DISTRICT ONE

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 756

in favor in opposition

Date: April 27, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Margo Schat

Address: 530 E 90th St #20

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ann Garvin

Address: 440 Bergen St, Bklyn 11217

I represent: Park Slope Food Coop - 2

Address: Union St Bklyn

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 576

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Susan Metz

Address: 409 Park Pl Bklyn 11238

I represent: Park Slope Food Coop

Address: Union

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ERIC WELTMAN, Food & Water Watch

Address: 68 Jay St.

I represent: Food & Water Watch

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Charles [unclear] (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 321 Conny St, NYC 10013

I represent: Self

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/27

Name: Stephanie Row (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: TPP California / Sierra Club

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/27/15

Name: Donna Scelus (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 145 W 96 St

I represent: Sierra Club

Address: NYC

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Qudney E. Jozard (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 125 Barclay St

I represent: N.Y.C. ARA + DC37 Retiree

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 576A

in favor in opposition

Date: April 27, 2015

Name: Jonathan REISS (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 90 RIVERSIDE DR.

I represent: Big Apple Coffee Party

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 176 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Apr 27 2015

Name: Rev Stephen Taylor (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 39 W 81 St 1617

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 576A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alice Sutter

Address: 820 W 180 St

I represent: North Man Neighbors For Peace and

Address: Justice

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 576A

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sarah A. Swisher

Address: 545 West End Ave. #12

I represent: Big Apple Coffee Party

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Freddy Castiblanco

Address: 33-09 75th Street Apt 3C

I represent: Small Business Owner

Address: Terraza 7 40-196 Ave St El-Hurst
NY 11373

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 576

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/27/15

Name: Adam Weissman (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 219 Carlton Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07606

I represent: Trade Justice New York Metro

Address: [unclear]

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Apr. 27th, 2015

Name: David Vassar (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 501 W. 127th St. #15E, NY, NY 10023

I represent: American Lung Assn.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4-27-15.

Name: Joel Kupferman (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 225 BWY 2625

I represent: Nat. Lawyers Guild - ENV. JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Address: _____