

1 [Opposing Fast Tracking of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Expressing Concerns about
2 Elements of the TPP, and Supporting Fair Trade Practices that Protect Jobs, Workers, the
3 Environment, and the Free and Open Internet]

3

4 **Resolution urging San Francisco’s representatives in Congress to oppose Trade**
5 **Promotion Authority (“Fast Track Authority”) for the proposed Trans-Pacific**
6 **Partnership Agreement (TPP); expressing concerns about draft elements of the TPP;**
7 **and supporting fair trade practices and agreements that protect jobs, workers, the**
8 **environment, and the free and open Internet to improve the quality of life in all**
9 **signatory countries, maintain the integrity and sovereignty of our judicial system,**
10 **promote free speech, privacy rights, and protection of whistleblowers, and to prevent**
11 **multinational corporations from being granted excessive power to undermine national**
12 **and local governmental authority to create reasonable rules and regulations.**

13

14 WHEREAS, Trade officials from the United States and eleven Pacific Rim nations--
15 Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore
16 and Vietnam--are engaged in closed door negotiations to sign a Trans-Pacific Partnership
17 Agreement (TPP); and

18 WHEREAS, On November 12, 2011, the Office of the United States Trade
19 Representative (USTR) announced that the goal of the TPP is to “enhance trade and
20 investment among the TPP partner countries, promote innovation, economic growth and
21 development, and support the creation and retention of jobs;” and

22 WHEREAS, The USTR states that the TPP will cover all aspects of commercial
23 relations among the member countries, including policy matters related to intellectual
24 property, labor, human rights, agriculture, natural resources, the environment, government
25 procurement, financial services, healthcare, telecommunications, and energy; and

1 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco strongly supports international fair
2 trade practices and agreements that foster economic growth and technological innovation
3 along with high standards for workers, the environment, free speech, privacy rights, and
4 protection of whistleblowers; and

5 WHEREAS, The May 2014 draft of the Intellectual Property Chapter of the TPP has
6 raised concerns among digital civil liberties groups that it would extend restrictive intellectual
7 property laws that would limit Internet users' freedom of speech, create new threats for
8 journalists and whistleblowers, and stifle technological innovation; and

9 WHEREAS, The January 2015 draft of the Investment Chapter of the TPP includes
10 "Investor-State Dispute Settlement" provisions that could give multinational corporations
11 excessive power to undermine national and local authority to create reasonable rules and
12 regulations, including those related to environmental safeguards, future climate policy, food
13 safety standards, balanced copyright rules, and specific protections for American jobs; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Obama administration indicated they would request renewal
15 of a Trade Promotion Authority bill (also known as "Fast Track authority") that would give the
16 president the authority to negotiate a TPP agreement that Congress would only be able to
17 approve or disapprove but not amend or filibuster; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 323-07 calling on
19 congress to "safeguard domestic regulatory authority and police space by rejecting any
20 request for renewal of Fast Track Trade Authority, and to create a democratic, inclusive trade
21 negotiating process that includes meaningful consultation with state and local governments
22 and civil society groups;" and

23 WHEREAS, In November 2013, 151 Democratic members of the House of
24 Representatives, including Congresswoman Jackie Speier, wrote a letter to President Obama
25

1 expressing their opposition to delegating Congress’s constitutional authority over trade policy
2 through “Fast Track” Trade Promotion Authority; and

3 WHEREAS, Concerns about the lack of transparency about proposed elements of the
4 TPP have motivated a broad coalition of labor, environmental, civil liberties, and technology
5 organizations to oppose Fast Track authorization of the TPP; and

6 WHEREAS, The Senate Finance Committee Chairperson Orrin Hatch announced that
7 the committee would begin deliberations on the “Fast Track” Trade Promotion Authority bill at
8 a hearing on April 16, 2015; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
10 urges San Francisco’s representatives in the United States to oppose “Fast Track” Trade
11 Promotion Authority for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors expresses its concerns about
13 provisions of the Intellectual Property Chapter of the TPP that could limit Internet users’
14 freedom of speech and right to privacy, create new threats for journalists and whistleblowers,
15 and stifle technological innovation; and expresses its concerns about provisions of the
16 Investment Chapter of the TPP related to “Investor-State Dispute Settlement” provisions; and,
17 be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly supports fair trade
19 practices and agreements that protect jobs, workers, and the environment, including
20 enforceable labor and environmental standards to improve the quality of life in all signatory
21 countries, maintain the integrity and sovereignty of our judicial system, promote free speech,
22 privacy rights, and protection of whistleblowers, and to prevent multinational corporations from
23 being granted excessive power to undermine national and local governmental authority to
24 create reasonable rules and regulations; and, be it

25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges our Congressional
2 delegation to vote to reject the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement unless these principles
3 are adequately addressed; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
5 to transmit copies of this resolution to San Francisco’s representatives in the California State
6 legislature and the United States Congress.

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25