

# State of Vermont

## Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

### Senate Resolution

By Senator Lyons,

**S.R. 13.** Senate resolution relating to improving pending legislation to reinstate the Fast Track Authority mechanism in international trade agreements.

*Whereas*, The United States Trade Representative (USTR) is in the midst of negotiating two major trade agreements: the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and

*Whereas*, The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act (H.R. 3830; S.1900) will reinstate the Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track) mechanism, and

*Whereas*, Fast Track was designed in the 1970s when trade negotiations were focused on cutting tariffs and quotas, but the TPP and TTIP trade agreements pending today are much broader, and

*Whereas*, Fast Track creates special rules that empower the executive branch to negotiate and sign trade agreements without Congressional oversight, and

*Whereas*, Fast Track undermines Congress's ability to have a meaningful role in shaping the content of trade agreements, and

*Whereas*, Fast Track limits Congress's time frame to read and debate thousands of pages before voting, and

*Whereas*, such a broad delegation of Congress's constitutional authorities is inappropriate given the scope of the pending trade agreements, and

*Whereas*, there is a current opportunity to improve the process by which significant foreign trade policy agreements such as the TPP and TTIP are negotiated, *now therefore be it*

#### ***Resolved by the Senate:***

That the Senate of the State of Vermont respectfully urges and requests the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to improve the process by which United States trade agreements are developed and implemented in order to allow Congress to have a meaningful role in shaping the content of trade agreements and to enable broad participation by all sectors of society, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the USTR and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.