

# State of Vermont

## Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

### Senate Resolution

By Senator Lyons, Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Bray, Campbell, Campion, Cummings, MacDonald, McCormack, Mullin, Pollina, Rodgers, Sirotkin, Starr, White, and Zuckerman,

**S.R. 9.** Senate resolution relating to the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

*Whereas*, many U.S. trade deals have incorporated rules that skew benefits, requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies, and

*Whereas*, the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) reported that, from the date of China's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001 through September 30, 2013, the trade deficit with China had cost 2.7 million American jobs, and

*Whereas*, EPI also reported that, as of the United States–Korea Free Trade Agreement's third anniversary in March 2015, the loss of 75,000 American jobs was attributable to the agreement, and

*Whereas*, on the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) 20th anniversary in 2014, Public Citizen reported that NAFTA had cost one million U.S. jobs, and

*Whereas*, more broadly, according to the U.S. census, in 2000, there were 16,845,612 manufacturing jobs in the country, but, in 2014, the number had declined to only 11,021,476, and

*Whereas*, bad trade policies have undermined the American manufacturing base and threaten the nation's economic and national security, and

*Whereas*, the relocation of manufacturing and service jobs offshore deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenue and jeopardizes the livelihoods of millions of Americans, and

*Whereas*, under NAFTA-style trade rules, the U.S. annual trade deficit, according to the U.S. census, has increased dramatically, from \$70.3 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to \$531.5 billion in 2015, and

*Whereas*, the disproportionate voice of powerful global corporations in the formation of U.S. free-trade agreements has advanced an agenda that undermines the public interest and threatens democracy, and

*Whereas*, NAFTA and other U.S. trade deals include a special legal right for foreign investors, known as an "investor-state dispute settlement" (ISDS), allowing foreign firms to bypass state and federal courts and instead take legal disputes to international tribunals, and

*Whereas*, in October 2015, 12 nations, including the United States, agreed to the text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which is the multilateral trade agreement with the most nations as signatories other than the World Trade Organization, and

*Whereas*, U.S. accession to the accord still requires U.S. House and Senate approval, and

*Whereas*, promoting economic growth with equity in Vermont requires reforms to the trade negotiation process that ensure that voices of workers, farmers, small businesses, families, and communities are heard, and

*Whereas*, TPP has been negotiated in secret, effectively shutting out the negotiating process from state and local governments, and

*Whereas*, given congressional enactment of fast-track trade negotiating authority, states, localities, and their citizens will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings in the TPP, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate:***

That the Senate of the State of Vermont urges Congress to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership and any similar trade deals if it fails to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate of the State of Vermont requests the Vermont Congressional Delegation to support new trade deals, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, only if they will:

Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement and other provisions that favor foreign companies over domestic ones and that undermine public choices;

Ensure that countries cannot undercut U.S.-based producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and enforcement;

Ensure that the United States will engage in robust enforcement of trade rules, including labor and environmental rules;

Include strong rule-of-origin language to promote economic growth and job creation in the United States;

Promote high standards of protection for workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than a race to the bottom; and

Put the interests of people and the planet over the interests of private profit, *and be it further*

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