

RESOLUTION OPPOSING FAST TRACK AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)

WHEREAS, the US has lost an estimated one million manufacturing jobs in the 20 years since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)¹, and NAFTA-style trade deals have grown increasingly unpopular with American voters across the political spectrum; and,

WHEREAS, the large corporations that got us into NAFTA are pressuring Congress to delegate away its constitutional authority over trade. They want Congress to agree to “Fast Track” authority as negotiators rush to sign a massive and controversial new trade deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), by spring of this year; and,

WHEREAS, if Congress passes the Baucus-Camp Fast Track bill, this NAFTA-style agreement with 11 Asian and Latin American countries could be signed before Congress gets to vote on it, with a guarantee that it could then be railroaded through Congress quickly with no amendments allowed and limited debate; and,

WHEREAS, leaks from the extremely secretive TPP negotiations reveal that the proposed deal would expand on NAFTA’s terms that help corporations place jobs offshore, eliminating many of the usual risks that make corporations think twice about relocating American manufacturing and service-sector jobs to low-wage countries; and,

WHEREAS, the TPP would empower foreign corporations to attack our domestic environmental, health and safety laws in foreign tribunals and demand taxpayer compensation for policies they think undermine their expected future profits. TPP would contribute to increased long distance transportation of goods and fuels, rather than fostering local production of resources and goods, thereby increasing production of carbon dioxide (GHGs) and exacerbation of global climate change. The TPP is packed with so many outrageous provisions, including a ban on Buy American policies, that TPP’s boosters have concluded that Fast Track, a constitution-busting procedure is needed to get this version of the TPP past Congress.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party opposes Fast Track and the Trans Pacific Partnership to make sure deals like the TPP do not cause us more harm.

Submitted by Phil Lopes

¹ “Heading South: US-Mexico Trade and Job Displacement after NAFTA” Economic Policy Institute, May 3, 2011