

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN SLADE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN HAVEN-O'DONNELL TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION BELOW:

Resolution Against Trade Agreements that Undermine the Ability of Governments to Enact and Enforce Laws to Protect Human Rights, Labor and the Environment

WHEREAS the Town of Carrboro benefits from the general health of the state economy and jobs being available in North Carolina

WHEREAS According to the Economic Policy Institute, 18,900 jobs have been lost or displaced in North Carolina (1994-2013) due to the rise in the trade deficit with Mexico since NAFTA was enacted

WHEREAS LED lights, photovoltaic cells, and other high-tech manufacturing goods are some of North Carolina's most important exports and exports of these products from the U.S. to South Korea plunged 41% in the first year of the Korea free trade agreement

WHEREAS the Town of Carrboro benefits from having the opportunity to have input on matters that ultimately have a local impact.

WHEREAS, current trade negotiations lack transparency and little effort has been made to consult with states on the effects of these agreements on state and local laws;

WHEREAS the Town of Carrboro benefits from a democratic system of laws that is responsive to local needs and impacts.

WHEREAS, trade rules can limit domestic authority to regulate to ensure a level playing field for workers and businesses or to include meaningful human rights, labor and environmental standards;

WHEREAS, investor-state disputes in trade agreements are being used to challenge domestic legal processes, including processes and decisions of national courts;

WHEREAS, investor-state dispute arbitration clauses allow foreign investors the right to sue governments directly in offshore private investment tribunals, bypassing the state courts;

WHEREAS, investor-state dispute arbitration provisions are in current known drafts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement;

WHEREAS, increasingly, decisions issued under this system result in foreign investors being granted greater rights than are provided to people, domestic firms, and investors under the constitutions, laws and court systems of host countries;

WHEREAS, granting Fast-Track Trade Promotion Authority will cede Congressional oversight of the details of trade agreements;

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro is active in cultivating a locally owned economy

WHEREAS these free trade agreements are antithetical to efforts that seek to strengthen locally owned economies

WHEREAS Representative David Price voted for NAFTA and other 'Free Trade' agreements including Panama, Korea, Colombia, Chile, Signapore

WHEREAS Senator Richard Burr voted for Panama, Korea, Colombia, Chile, and Signapore 'Free Trade' agreements

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Carrboro thanks Senator Kay Hagan for voting against free trade agreements that hurt the Town of Carrboro

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Carrboro asks Representative David Price, Senators Kay Hagan and Senator Richard Burr Congress to reject Fast-Track Trade Promotion Authority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Carrboro asks Representative David Price, Senators Kay Hagan and Senator Richard Burr to reject any trade agreements that include investor-state dispute arbitration and which undermine the ability of governments to enact laws to protect human rights, labor and environmental standards.

This the 24TH day of June, 2014

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Mayor Lavelle, Alderman Haven-O'Donnell, Alderman Chaney, Alderman Seils, Alderman Gist, Alderman Slade and Alderman Johnson