



RICHARD ELÍAS
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DISTRICT 5

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 12, 2016
TO: Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board
FROM: Richard Elías, District Five Supervisor 
REGARDING: Item for the January 19, 2016 agenda addendum

Please add the following to the January 19, 2016 agenda addendum:

Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. ____ A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP, ANY SIMILAR NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS, AND THE EXTENSION OF DISASTROUS PAST TRADE AGREEMENTS (District 5)

Thank you

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RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP, ANY SIMILAR NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS, AND THE EXTENSION OF DISASTROUS PAST TRADE AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, United States trade agreements of the past 25 years have been corporate-driven, incorporating rules that skew benefits to economic elites while causing working families to suffer from their painful negative consequences, and

WHEREAS, the North America Free Trade Agreement, China's entry into the World Trade Organization, and the U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement caused a terrible loss of good-paying jobs with benefits for U.S. workers – 700,000 jobs lost due to NAFTA, 3.2 million jobs lost to the China pact, and 75,000 jobs lost to the Korea agreement, and

WHEREAS, U. S. manufacturing industries have cut 5 million workers overall from their workforces since 2000 due to these skewed U.S. trade policies, and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs has devastated the families of these workers, negatively impacted many entire communities, and reduced dramatically the lifetime earning of these workers and of others in and entering the workforce, and

WHEREAS, the long decline of basic U.S. manufacturing capacity spurred by these disastrous trade policies undermines our nation's economic security and poses a direct threat to our national security, and

WHEREAS, the transfer to other countries of U.S. manufacturing and service jobs deprives local, county and state governments of revenue sorely needed to provide the level of service that residents want and deserve, to provide jobs for public servants, and to provide jobs for workers who build, repair and maintain our infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the trade rules of NAFTA and similar trade agreements of recent years create severe trade imbalances that are growing the annual U.S. trade deficit – from \$70 billion in 1993 before NAFTA to more than \$508 billion in 2014, and

WHEREAS, NAFTA and all but two U.S. trade agreements after it include special legal rights for foreign investors, known as investor-to-state dispute settlement, that allows investors to bypass federal and state court systems to challenge national, state and local laws, regulations, and administrative and judicial decisions before a tribunal of corporate attorneys – a threat to the viability of our democratic system, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement involving the U.S. and 11 other Pacific Rim countries includes these investor-to-state dispute settlement provisions, and

WHEREAS, these TPP provisions can reduce or even eliminate requirements for the quality and safety of building construction, and for environmental law and rules compliance, and can overturn bans on the use of dangerous toxic chemicals, and

WHEREAS, TPP's investor-to-state dispute settlement provisions would undermine further signatory countries' efforts to combat global climate change, and

WHEREAS, the proposed TPP would lock in monopoly protections for expensive specialty pharmaceuticals and would restrict signatory governments' ability to limit spending on these life-saving and life-improving drugs, and

WHEREAS, the TPP was created through years of secret negotiations that included corporate representatives, but excluded Congress, state, county and local governments and public-interest organizations, and

WHEREAS, the disproportionate voice of powerful global corporations in the formation of TPP and other "free trade" agreements since NAFTA has advanced agendas that undermine the public interest and threaten the viability of democracies, and

WHEREAS, Congress is to act upon the TPP without any provision for amendments to correct its grievous shortcomings,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors calls upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to vote against the TPP and any similar trade-agreement proposals which would continue and exacerbate failed trade policies common since NAFTA's enactment,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors calls upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to consider new and renewed trade agreements only if they:

- Protect and promote traditional state, county and local legal prerogatives and authority under our federal government system, and therefore do not include any investor-to-state dispute settlement provisions.
- Ensure balanced trade that does not exacerbate the U.S. trade deficit.
- Include enforceable rules prohibiting currency manipulations.
- Require adherence of all signatories to the strongest of their labor and environmental laws, regulations, administrative decisions, and judicial precedents.
- Inform signatories that the U.S. will enforce robustly these laws, regulations, administrative decisions and judicial precedents.
- Promote high ethical and environmental standards for workplaces, products, and natural resources.
- Enshrine the interests of workers, farmers, small business owners, families, and communities, and the health of the planet, as priorities over the pursuit of private profit.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this ____ day of _____, 2016.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney