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For Immediate Release:
March 30, 2015

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Seattle City Council Unanimously Votes to Oppose Fast Track, Highlighting Obama's Uphill Battle in Trade Authority Quest

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Seattle City Council's unanimous vote moments ago in opposition to Fast Track trade authority – a vote cast by a major port city in a trade-dependent state – highlights the uphill battle the Obama administration faces as it seeks congressional support for a delegation of Fast Track authority for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The Council voted 9-0 to approve a [resolution](#) “expressing the Council's opposition to Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track) and strong concerns about draft elements of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).”

“The White House and the multinational corporations based in Washington state worked to derail this resolution, but the public opposition to Fast Track and the TPP is strong in Washington state, a place where trade is a big deal. Bad trade deals mean lost jobs, lower wages and a ravaged environment,” said Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch.

The lengthy resolution highlights various problems with the controversial TPP agreement, the process by which it has been negotiated and the Fast Track process. The resolution refers to a December 2014 letter sent by Washington state's Democratic governor warning against the Investor-State Dispute Settlement system, and raising other concerns with trade agreement terms.

A [recent leak](#) of the TPP's investment chapter revealed how the pact would make it easier for U.S. firms to offshore American jobs to low-wage countries while newly empowering thousands of foreign firms to seek cash compensation from U.S. taxpayers by challenging U.S. government actions, laws and court rulings before unaccountable foreign tribunals.

Seattle is not the only city in Washington state opposed to “Fast Track” and the TPP. Last week, the Bellingham City Council also [voted unanimously for a resolution](#) against Fast Track, stating, “We do not believe it is sound democratic process to bind Congress to an up-or-down vote, particularly on a wide-reaching and controversial agreement written behind closed doors.”

For more information about Fast Track, visit <http://www.citizen.org/fast-track>.

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