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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, U.S. trade deals for the past 25 years have been corporate-driven, incorporating rules that skew benefits to economic elites while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies; and

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WHEREAS, The growing trade deficits, driven by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), China's accession to the World Trade Organization, and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, have displaced 700,000 jobs, 3.2 million jobs, and 75,000 jobs respectively; and

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WHEREAS, U.S. employment in manufacturing dropped by 5 million from 2000 to 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Jobs lost due to trade devastate families and entire communities and can permanently reduce lifetime earnings for hundreds of thousands of workers; and

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WHEREAS, The long decline of the American manufacturing base, exacerbated by bad trade policies that reward outsourcing, has undermined our economic security and poses a direct threat to our national security; and

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WHEREAS, The offshoring of manufacturing and service jobs

1 deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues,
2 jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of public servants, as
3 well as construction workers whose jobs depend upon
4 infrastructure building, repair, and maintenance; and

5 WHEREAS, Under NAFTA-style trade rules, the U.S.'s annual
6 trade deficit has increased dramatically from \$70 billion in
7 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to more than \$508
8 billion in 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, The disproportionate voice of powerful global
10 corporations in the formation of U.S. "free trade" agreements
11 has advanced an agenda that undermines the public interest and
12 threatens democracy; and

13 WHEREAS, NAFTA, and all but 2 of the U.S. trade deals that
14 followed it, includes special legal rights for foreign
15 investors, known as "investor-to-state dispute settlement" or
16 ISDS, that allow foreign firms to bypass state and federal
17 courts to challenge state and local laws, regulations, and
18 administrative and judicial decisions in international
19 tribunals; and

20 WHEREAS, Foreign investors have already used NAFTA's ISDS
21 provisions to challenge decisions regarding local building
22 permits, environmental regulations, and state bans on toxic

1 chemicals and decisions of state courts; and

2 WHEREAS, Climate change and environmental degradation
3 threaten communities across the globe and ISDS provisions in
4 the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) may expose nations
5 enacting policies to fight climate change to ISDS cases that
6 undermine these efforts; and

7 WHEREAS, Promoting economic growth with equity in Illinois
8 requires an approach that reforms the entire trade negotiation
9 process to ensure that the voices of workers, farmers, small
10 businesses, families, and communities are heard and their
11 interests addressed; and

12 WHEREAS, The TPP has been negotiated in secret, effectively
13 shutting state and local governments out of the process,
14 limiting our ability to influence its rules to ensure the
15 people of Illinois can participate in the benefits of trade;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Given the enactment of fast track trade
18 negotiating authority, states, localities, and their citizens
19 will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings in the TPP
20 because its text will not be made public until it is final and
21 can no longer be improved; and

1 WHEREAS, Repeating old mistakes in negotiating new trade
2 agreements such as the TPP represents a missed opportunity to
3 strengthen our economy, reduce income inequality, and promote
4 sustainable growth; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon our
7 elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of
8 Representatives to oppose the TPP and any similar trade deals
9 if they fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies
10 of the past; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we call upon our elected officials in the
12 U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to support new
13 trade deals such as the TPP only if they do the following:

14 (1) protect and promote traditional state and local
15 prerogatives and authority under our federal system,
16 including by ensuring that states and localities will not
17 be required to comply with certain commitments, including
18 any restrictions on preferences for local, state, or U.S.
19 goods or services, without prior informed consent of the
20 legislature or local lawmaking body;

21 (2) ensure balanced trade and address the excessive,
22 job-killing U.S. trade deficit;

23 (3) include enforceable rules against currency
24 manipulation, which countries such as China and Japan have

1 used to tilt the playing field in their favor;

2 (4) exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement
3 (ISDS) and other provisions that favor foreign companies
4 over domestic ones and undermine public choices;

5 (5) ensure that countries cannot undercut U.S.-based
6 producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and
7 enforcement;

8 (6) ensure that the U.S. will engage in robust
9 enforcement of trade rules, including labor and
10 environmental rules;

11 (7) include strong rules of origin to promote economic
12 growth and job creation in the U.S.;

13 (8) promote high standards of protection for
14 workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than
15 promoting a race to the bottom; and

16 (9) put the interests of people and the planet over the
17 interests of private profit; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the
20 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member
21 of the Illinois congressional delegation.