

RESOLUTION OPPOSING “FAST TRACK” AUTHORITY

Whereas, "Fast Track" trade promotion authority is a type of trade policy that cedes Congressional power (Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution) to the Executive Branch which can negotiate, out of public view, as many trade agreements as it can during a given time period in an undemocratic and unaccountable process that limits debate and citizen participation, does not allow for amendments or improvements in any way, and fails to ensure a positive impact for the U.S. trade balance, good living-wage jobs, or that state and local governments can continue to legislate and regulate in the public interest;

Whereas, ever since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was enacted under "Fast Track" procedures, workers across America have experienced downward pressure on wages and greater threats to their ability to organize and collectively bargain as well as having cost America more than one million jobs and contributed to the closing of more than 60,000 factories

Whereas, there is a better way to negotiate trade deals so that they promote the creation of decent, living-wage jobs, encourage shared prosperity rather than skewed benefits for economic elites, protects our environment, ensures the safety of imported food and other products, revitalizes our manufacturing sector, and eliminates the separate system of justice for foreign companies that want to sue America (known as "LSDS");

Be it resolved that the San Bernardino County Democratic Party opposes any "Fast Track" legislation that fails to provide opportunities for citizen and Congressional participation in trade negotiations that are transparent with clear accountability mechanisms protecting labor rights for all workers, a clean environment, a safe food supply, sustainable growth, and that have a positive impact on the U.S. trade balance, create good, living-wage jobs and ensure that state and local governments can continue to legislate and regulate in the public interest:

Be it further resolved that the San Bernardino County Democratic Party calls upon all California federal elected officials to oppose any "Fast Track" legislation giving the Executive Branch the power to negotiate behind closed doors and a blank check to negotiate bad trade deals that can't be fixed before Congress is required to vote.

Adopted by the San Bernardino County Democratic Party April 23, 2015