

STATE OF MAINE

—
**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**
—

**HOUSE RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TRANS-PACIFIC
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Maine House of Representatives strongly supports international trade when fair rules of trade are in place that encourage meaningful transparency, appropriately acknowledge the vital role of state sovereignty and afford more meaningful congressional review and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, the Maine House of Representatives seeks to maximize the benefits and minimize any negative effects of international trade; and

WHEREAS, existing trade agreements have effects that extend significantly beyond the bounds of traditional trade matters, such as tariffs and quotas, and can undermine Maine's regulatory authority and constitutionally guaranteed authority to protect public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is important that trade agreements ensure a level playing field for Maine workers and businesses and include meaningful human rights and labor and environmental standards that do not injure Maine businesses, workers and communities; and

WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, and other trade deals include special provisions for foreign investors, known as investor-state dispute settlements, that allow foreign firms to bypass state and federal courts to challenge state and local laws, regulations and administrative and judicial decisions in international tribunals; and

WHEREAS, foreign investors already have used NAFTA's investor-state dispute settlement provisions to challenge state and local decisions; and

WHEREAS, the threat of investor-state dispute settlement challenges to state, city and local laws and their resulting damages will have a negative effect on state, city and county governments and undermine local control; and

WHEREAS, the negative effect of existing trade agreements and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement on Maine's regulatory authority and constitutionally guaranteed authority to protect public health, safety and welfare has occurred in part because United States trade policy has been formulated and implemented in a manner that lacks transparency, fails to properly recognize the principles of state sovereignty and does not provide meaningful opportunity for congressional review and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, negotiating new trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement in this way represents a missed opportunity to strengthen our economy, reduce income inequality and promote sustainable growth; and

WHEREAS, the Maine House of Representatives strongly believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Maine that the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement legislation not be enacted; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to express our opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and related enacting legislation and to express our support for a fair deal for Maine and the United States.