

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 23

House resolution relating to the public policy implications of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Offered by: Representatives Pearson of Burlington and Keenan of St. Albans City

Whereas, the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) is a multinational trade agreement in the Asia-Pacific region which, if implemented, could create the largest trading bloc in the world, and

Whereas, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a free trade agreement being negotiated with the European Union that could override Vermont's constitutionally guaranteed authority to pass laws and implement policies on a wide range of domestic issues, and

Whereas, the negotiations for the two trade agreements lack transparency and concern terms going beyond tariff agreements, and

Whereas, the trade agreements could impact state sovereignty and restrict the ability of Vermont to regulate certain corporate activities impacting the environment, health care, tobacco products, pharmaceuticals, energy, and agriculture, and

Whereas, states do not have an equal advisory capacity in the trade negotiations as that given to businesses, and

Whereas, the negotiating texts have not been published and there has not been public debate on U.S. trade policy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body requests the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR): (1) to increase transparency in TTIP and TPPA free-trade negotiations, (2) to publish information going beyond tariff negotiations, (3) to give states as equal an advisory role in the negotiations as that given to businesses, and (4) to consider state sovereignty and the impact of the trade agreements on state and local laws, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the USTR and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.