



## UNITED ASSOCIATION

of Journeymen and Apprentices of the  
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of  
the United States and Canada

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Founded 1889

UA Local Union: **290**

Letters should  
be confined to  
one subject

Subject:

October 1, 2015

### RESOLUTION OPPOSING FAST TRACK AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

**Whereas, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and similar trade policies are directly responsible for approximately 3.5 million lost jobs in the United States, increasing unemployment, while also reducing tax revenue for schools, infrastructure and other critical public services and driving down the wages and benefits of the jobs that are left; and**

**Whereas, these trade agreements have also been devastating for working people in developing countries, forcing countless family farmers off their land and encouraging a global race to the bottom in working conditions; and**

**Whereas the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is poised to become the largest Free Trade Agreement in the world, with a dozen countries already included, and also containing a "docking" mechanism that would allow new countries to join over time; and**

**Whereas a number of the current TPP negotiating countries have atrocious labor standards, with some actually banning independent trade unions and even being promoted as low cost labor alternatives to China; and**

**Whereas, there is no indication that U.S. negotiators are pushing for the TPP to include enforceable labor standards based on core International Labor Organization conventions regarding child labor, forced labor, freedom from discrimination and the right to organize; and**

**Whereas, leaked TPP documents reveal U.S. negotiators pushing for provisions that would allow transnational corporations to challenge U.S. laws, regulations and court decisions, as well as those of other countries, as so-called "regulatory takings" through a private tribunal system that circumvents domestic judicial systems, thereby threatening future environmental, consumer safety, labor and financial rules and other democratically-enacted public interest regulations; and**

**Whereas, leaked TPP documents further reveal U.S. negotiators pushing for provisions that would effectively extend the length of drug patents, thereby reducing access to affordable generic medications at home and throughout the world; and**

**Whereas, U.S. trade negotiators have granted hundreds of corporate lobbyists access to the TPP negotiating texts, but have flatly refused to tell the American people what they are proposing in our names;**

**Whereas, the world cannot afford a "NAFTA of the Pacific"; and**

**Whereas, the TPP proponents are now urging Congress to pass Fast Track legislation that would enable the TPP and other pacts to be rushed to approval, circumventing ordinary congressional review, amendment and debate procedures;**

**Therefore, be it resolved, that the MEMBERSHIP OF UA LOCAL UNION 290 opposes Fast Track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and**

**Be it further resolved that our organization will seek out opportunities to work with others in our communities and throughout the world to oppose Fast Track and the ATPP; and**

**Be it further resolved that our organization will not endorse, fund or support any candidate for political office that votes for Fast Tack or the TPP; and**

**Be it finally resolved that our organization will submit a copy of this resolution to all Members of Congress in our region.**