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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, February 12, 2015

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**Council Member Helen Rosenthal calls for NYC to be a "TPP-Free Zone"**

*The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) threatens NYC standards and protections for workers, the environment, and food sanitation*

On Thursday Council Member Helen Rosenthal introduced a new resolution that opposes the President's "fast-track" authority over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and declares New York City a "TPP-Free Zone."

The TPP, a free trade agreement being secretly negotiated between the United States federal government and eleven other Pacific Rim countries, will "eliminate tariffs and other barriers to goods and services trade and investment" among these countries. However leaked texts and news reports show that the TPP would significantly alter the balance of international power, reduce national, state and city sovereignty, and negatively impact domestic businesses, environmental and labor protections, food sanitation standards, and free access to the internet and low-cost medications.

The "fast tack" authority that President Obama is seeking to approve would remove Congress' ability to change the agreement after it is finalized and would require them to merely give it an up-or-down vote.

"It is critical that the voices of local and state governments are heard on this potentially dangerous agreement," said **Council Member Helen Rosenthal**. "This

resolution sends a strong message to the federal government that New York City stands in opposition to this trade agreement and the process through which it is being negotiated, without the scrutiny of the American people."

"The only purpose Fast Track serves is to force through trade agreements, negotiated in secret, that can't survive in the light of day. Congress must not cede its authority, and allow corporate interests to, once again, shortcut the democratic process. Just like NAFTA, the Trans-Pacific Partnership will destroy jobs, harm the environment, and gut protections for workers and consumers. It is long past time to correct course and favor trade policies that put the American people first," said **Congressman Jerrold Nadler**.

"Fast track is wrong for New Yorkers who care about breathing clean air, drinking safe water, and enjoying a clean environment," said **Stephanie Low, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Chair, TPP Task Force**. "We are indebted to Council Member Helen Rosenthal for informing New Yorkers on how Fast Track would allow trade agreements to be passed without congressional oversight and how our local ordinances could be challenged by multi-national corporations."

"The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a NAFTA-Style trade agreement that will allow big corporations to skirt our country's laws, endanger our food supply, and destroy thousands of American jobs. Make no mistake, wealthy and powerful forces want the TPP to sail through Congress without as much as a discussion, because they know that Americans' oppose the secretive process through which the TPP has been written and the tragic consequences its passage would have for working families," said **Charles Chamberlain, Executive Director of Democracy for America**, a national progressive political organization with over one million members across the country. "The only way we're going to push back and force a discussion about what's in the TPP and what it would mean for our country is if leaders in the grassroots and government all across the country demand a real debate of the trade agreement, and that's precisely what Council Member Helen Rosenthal's bold 'TPP-free NYC' resolution will do for the great city of New York," Chamberlain said.

"Fast Tracking the TPP will outsource more jobs, raise prescription drug prices, eliminate consumer protections from banks, threaten food safety, and allow corporations to sue to overturn our laws and regulations, including New York City laws," said **Pete Sikora, NYS Legislative/Political Director for CWA District One**. "It's time for Congress to derail Fast Track and the TPP."

"We applaud New York City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal for introducing a Resolution declaring the City of New York a "TPP-Free Zone" and urging Congress not to grant President Obama "fast-track" authority over, or permission to sign, the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement," said **Ling Tsou, Founder and Director of United for Action**. "Leaked texts showed that Governments signing TPP must align their national laws and regulations with the terms of the agreement. For example, liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports can freely cross borders of TPP

signatory nations and that environmental review of the public impacts is banned. Thus, there would be no means of stopping LNG export terminals from sending fracked gas to Asia, where it commands prices six times higher than in the U.S. Effectively, TPP would foster a fracking shale gas boom. President Obama wants to "Fast Track" the TPP through Congress. Given the total absence of transparency on the TPP, ramming it through Congress this way is an absolute betrayal of democratic process."

"Among many reasons to oppose the TPP, foremost is this. Now as never before, the voice of the people must direct the course of human events. Corporations must be made servants, not rulers. The TPP aims to wreck this prospect. It will speed the train of history off the rails," said **Rev. Stephen H. Phelps**.

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