



November 1, 2016

The Honorable Denny Heck
United States House of Representatives
Thurston and Mason County Office
420 College Street SE
Lacey, Washington 98503

Dear Representative Heck:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns about the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). We are pleased that you will not vote in support of the TPP until you have more satisfactory answers to both of your paramount concerns. We agree that the means and the will to ensure enforcement and a meaningful investment in our domestic economy and opportunities for American families are both of paramount importance.

As you continue to evaluate the TPP trade agreement we respectfully request that you consider who will benefit from this agreement and who will pay for this agreement, with particular consideration of the impacts upon your constituents here in Washington State and even more specifically, in Olympia.

Why does international trade policy matter to a city like Olympia? For several months now we have heard from Olympia residents and others who have concerns about the proposed TPP. We agree that concerns remain about the Investor State Dispute Settlement provisions. You asked, *"Would the agreement create a dispute resolution mechanism (both for investors and others) that balanced fairness with an airtight protection of our own sovereignty and ability to fashion our future?"*

We wish to protect our ability to decide and enforce local policies including zoning and land-use laws. These policies pose a threat to local governments and local communities if transnational corporations are allowed to sanction governments for local policies that potentially restrict the company's profitability.

We are concerned here in Olympia about growing an economy that includes family-wage jobs, our ability to maintain and encourage a local food system, and our ability to conduct education and grow businesses in a manner that reflects local priorities and values. We are particularly concerned that a global market operating under the TPP could prevent us from addressing environmental degradation, the sustainability of resources, or the ability of local people to add value to natural resources before those materials enter the marketplace.

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We agree that your paramount concerns are not satisfied by the TPP as negotiated, and believe that there are other concerns worthy of your consideration. We urge you to continue to carefully analyze the proposal, including the concerns we have put forth here, so that future international trade policies do not obstruct the aims of our community, our state, and our region.

Thank you for your consideration and for sharing your decision making process.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Selby
Mayor

Nathaniel Jones
Mayor Pro Tem

Jessica Bateman
Councilmember

Clark Gilman
Councilmember

Julie Hankins
Councilmember

Jeannine Roe
Councilmember

Jim Cooper
Councilmember