

MEDIA ADVISORY

Activists Urge City Council to Declare NYC a TPP-Free Zone

From Seattle to Pittsburgh, a broad coalition of labor, environmental, social justice and faith leaders are successfully pressing local governments to say “no” to “Fast Track”

New York, NY — Leaders from New York City's labor, environmental, social justice and faith communities will rally and testify in support of City Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal's [resolution](#) urging Congress to reject “Fast Track” legislation for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and declaring the city a “TPP-free zone.”

The TPP is a 12-nation trade deal that has been negotiated in total secrecy and threatens to send more American jobs overseas, undermine our food safety, pollute the environment and raise prescription drug prices. If Fast Track, also known as Trade Promotion Authority, were to be approved, our Congress would be surrendering its constitutional right to debate and offer amendments to this dangerous trade agreement. A number of senators and representatives have already voiced their opposition, but Americans aren't relying on Capitol Hill to act. Major cities such as Seattle, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh passed Resolutions opposing Fast Track, while Berkeley and Richmond in California declared themselves TPP-free zones.

According to CM Helen Rosenthal, “This hearing is an important opportunity for the people of New York City to voice their opinions about the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the legislation currently before Congress to provide “Fast Track Authority” to the President. The negotiations for the TPP have been held in secret, and Fast Track Authority would provide limited time for public debate and no opportunity for Congress to amend the agreement. This is particularly concerning because of the potentially devastating ramifications of the TPP on the sovereignty of our national, state, and local laws. This Resolution sends a clear message to the federal government that New York City opposes this trade agreement and demands that the American people have a voice in such a critical negotiation.”

WHAT: Press conference ahead of the New York City Council's hearing on Resolution No. 576, declaring New York City a “TPP-free zone.”

WHEN: 9:30 AM, Monday, April 27, 2015

WHERE: On the steps of New York City Hall, New York, NY

WHO: Communications Workers of America, Sierra Club NYC Group, New York City Central Labor Council, New York State AFL-CIO, Food & Water Watch, MoveOn.org, SEIU - Local 32BJ, United Steel Workers, Voices Of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY), Working Families Party, Alliance for Retired Americans, NYS Nurses Association, WEAFT for Environmental Justice and Trade Justice NY Metro

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS: Council Member & Prime Sponsor Helen Rosenthal, Zephyr Teachout, Josh Fox (Gasland), and representatives from above-listed groups.

CONTACTS:

Miranda Trimmier, Food & Water Watch, mirandatrimmier@gmail.com 612 616 2998

Kendra Marr Chaikind, Communications Workers of America, kchaikind@cwa-union.org 925 330 8348

Activists will go directly from the press conference to the city council's hearing, which will begin at 10 AM at 250 Broadway, Committee Room, 16th floor, New York, NY. Attendees must bring an ID for entry.

The council is scheduled to vote on the resolution the following day, Tuesday, April 28, at 1 PM

###