

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXTENSION OF DISASTROUS TRADE POLICIES

WHEREAS, The long decline of the American manufacturing base—exacerbated by bad trade policies that reward outsourcing—has undermined our economic security. U.S. employment in manufacturing dropped by 5 million from 2000 to 2015; The Commonwealth’s manufacturing dropped from more than 30 percent of all jobs in 1969 to 13 percent in 1999. Southeastern Massachusetts has lost almost half of its manufacturing jobs in the past fifty-five years, and

WHEREAS, Our loss of manufacturing jobs has had significant economic impacts for working families in New Bedford, such as lowering access to decent wages. The average median household income from 2009-2013 in New Bedford was \$33,211 half the average median household income in Massachusetts of \$66,866; and

WHEREAS, The off shoring of manufacturing and service jobs deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues, jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of public servants as well as construction workers whose jobs depend upon infrastructure building, repair and maintenance, and

WHEREAS, U.S. trade deals for the past 25 years have incorporated rules that skew benefits to economic elites while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies; The growing trade deficits, driven by the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, have displaced 700,000 jobs and 3.2 million jobs, and 75,000 jobs respectively, and

WHEREAS, Jobs lost due to trade devastate families and entire communities and can permanently reduce lifetime earnings for hundreds of thousands of workers. From 2009-2013 the number of persons who live below the poverty level in New Bedford was 23.5%, compared to 11.4% average across the state. New Bedford has more often suffered higher double-digit unemployment rates than most other towns in Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS, Under NAFTA-style trade rules, the U.S. annual trade deficit has increased dramatically from 70 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to more than \$508 billion in 2014, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of New Bedford calls upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to oppose the TPP and any similar trade deals if they fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council of New Bedford of Massachusetts calls upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to support new trade deals such as the TPP only if they will:

- Protect and promote traditional state and local prerogatives and authority under our federal system, including by ensuring that states and localities will not be required to comply with certain commitments, including any restrictions on preferences for local, state, or U.S. goods or services, without prior informed consent of the legislature or local lawmaking body;
- Ensure balanced trade and address the excessive, job-killing U.S. trade deficit;
- Include enforceable rules against currency manipulation, which countries such as China and Japan have used to tilt the playing field in their favor;
- Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions that favor foreign companies over domestic ones and undermine public choices;
- Ensure that countries cannot undercut U.S. based producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and enforcement;
- Ensure that the U.S. will engage in robust enforcement of trade rules, including labor and environmental rules;
- Include strong rule of origin to promote economic growth and job creation in the U.S.;
- Promote high standards of protection for workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than promoting a race to the bottom.