

International Longshore and Warehouse Union  
Thirty-fifth International Convention  
San Diego, California  
June 4 – 8, 2012

m/s/c/u  
6/7/12 pm session  
Resolution # R-4

INSTRUCT CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (T-PP)

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

- WHEREAS: NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), the WTO (World Trade Organization), CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement), and more recent NAFTA-style “free trade” schemes enacted by Congress have contributed to unemployment and de-industrialization in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS: those trade schemes lack prohibitions against exploitation of workers or the environment and lack guarantees against human rights abuses; and
- WHEREAS: the AFL-CIO, on behalf of 60 unions representing approximately 13 million Americans, claims that millions of U.S. jobs have been lost due to corporate-friendly free trade schemes like the proposed T-PP; and
- WHEREAS: the latest so-called free trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific partnership (TPP) is currently under negotiations, and it continues the NAFTA/CAFTA/WTO model in spite of decades of negative experience; and
- WHEREAS: a solid majority of Americans oppose so-called “free trade” schemes;
- THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED: that this 35<sup>th</sup> Convention of the ILWU goes on record as opposing the Trans-Pacific Free Trade Agreement; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED: that the ILWU call upon its friends in the Pacific Rim Unions and community allies to formulate a plan of action to expose and fight the creation of this secret agreement in order to insure that workers’ interests are not once again silenced by the corporate interests and the politicians they own in the name of so-called “Free Trade”; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED: that the ILWU work with other unions and community groups to mobilize for the upcoming round of T-PP negotiations taking place in San Diego, July 2, 2012; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: we call on Congress to represent we the people, and to oppose the T-PP and other corporate-friendly free trade schemes; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: if Members of Congress believe free trade schemes like the T-PP are good for the people of our nation, let them bring their beliefs to the communities in which we live, and to the court of public opinion; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: because of the importance of this topic we call on Members of Congress who support the T-PP and similar free trade schemes to facilitate pro and con debates in their Districts or States that are accessible to the public and where public advocates such as Global Trade Watch shall be guaranteed equal time to present arguments in opposition to the T-PP and other NAFTA-style deals.