

RESOLUTION NO. 16- 123

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO**

OPPOSING THE ENACTMENT OF HARMFUL FEDERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2015, the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (“TPA”) was signed into law, providing the federal government “fast-track” powers to conduct and conclude federal trade legislation; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is currently considering the approval of several proposed trade agreements, to wit: the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (“TPP”), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement (TTIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA); and

WHEREAS, TPP negotiations have been completed, and the final agreement is awaiting Congressional approval; and

WHEREAS, the American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and United Steelworkers (USW) are encouraging communities nationwide to pass resolutions opposing these proposed trade policies, in particular the TPP, with a exacting focus on the negative impact on labor rights and rules; and

WHEREAS, the TPP concerns matters of public policy and fails to meet its stated goals “to promote economic growth, support the creation and retention of jobs, enhance innovation, productivity and competitiveness, raise living standards, reduce poverty in countries, and promote transparency, good governance, and enhanced labor and environmental protections”; and

WHEREAS, the TPP critically fails to address currency misalignment, contains feeble auto rules of origin and inadequate state-owned enterprise provisions, provides extraordinary rights to foreign investors and pharmaceutical companies, undermines Buy American Act, weakens labor, environmental, health, food safety and financial laws, allows challenges to our laws in international tribunals rather than our own court system, and includes a labor framework that has proved itself ineffective, resulting in the certain risks of TPP outweighing its speculative and limited benefits; and

WHEREAS, the proud history of Pueblo is the history of workers whose jobs are threatened by unfair trade practices; and

WHEREAS, Pueblo County’s unemployment rate is around 5 percent, having seen a 30 percent decline in employment from January 2013 to March 2016 at EVRAZ Rocky Mountain Steel, and more notably, a recent 450 worker lay-off; and

WHEREAS, the economies of significant Pueblo industries are closely linked to trade policy, and unfair policies within the TPP and other proposed agreements will only increase job losses; and

WHEREAS, given the enactment of the TPA, citizens have little opportunity to correct shortcomings of these proposed trade policies and Congress cannot follow normal Congressional procedure that permits full hearings and amendments; and

WHEREAS, this Board opposes the enactment of harmful federal trade agreements and desires to call upon our Congressional delegation to oppose the same.

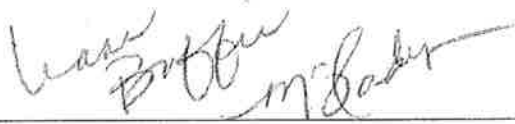
RESOLUTION NO. 16-123 (CONTINUED)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pueblo County, Colorado, that:

1. Pueblo County respectfully calls upon Senator Michael Bennett, Senator Cory Gardner, and Representative Scott Tipton to oppose the TPP as currently negotiated, and any similar proposed trade deals, such as the TTIP and TiSA, if they fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past; and
2. Pueblo County calls upon our Congressional delegation to support new trade policy that truly promotes economic growth; avoids favoring foreign companies over domestic ones; promotes high standards of protection for workplaces, products, and natural resources; supports the creation and retention of jobs; enhances innovation, productivity and competitiveness; raises living standards; reduces poverty in our country; and promotes transparency, good governance, and enhanced labor and environmental protections; and
3. Staff is directed to provide copies of this Resolution to Senator Michael Bennett, Senator Cory Gardner, and Representative Scott Tipton.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of May 2016, in Pueblo County, Colorado.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO**

By: 
Liane "Buffie" McFadyen, Chair

ATTEST:

By: 
Gilbert Ortiz, County Clerk