

TPP Resolution for Presbytery

CAMM recommends that Hudson River Presbytery officially oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Whereas the PCUSA has stated in repeated General Assemblies¹ that corporations should not have the right to override the sovereignty of governments to regulate public health, labor rights, and environmental protections or to cause harm to indigenous communities or other vulnerable populations and that trade should function as a means of grace² to create dignified work that supports people's lives, puts food on the table and undergirds the creation of a just society,

Whereas the Presbytery of Hudson River has a long-standing commitment to working against economic injustice, and for protection of the environment, workers' rights, and democratic principles, and has supported global mission partnerships,

Whereas the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) has been negotiated in secrecy with almost no public access or review from Congress and would threaten environmental and food safety standards, regulation of the banking industry, democratic principles and the sovereignty of governments,

Therefore be it resolved that the Presbytery of Hudson River officially oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

¹ PCUSA Resolution on Just Globalization, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, 2006

² Atle Sommerfeldt. *Spirituality of Trade*

Supporting God's Vision of a Just Community

Trade as a means of God's Grace

Beginning in 2010, Hudson River Presbytery's Peru Partnership has been working on issues of trade reform stemming from our relationship with our mission partners in La Oroya, Peru, the mining community in the Peruvian Andes that has suffered severe environmental and health damages from the lead smelting plant owned by Renco Group, Inc.. Together with the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, the PCUSA Joining Hands office in Louisville, and our mission partners in Peru, we have begun an international campaign to shed light on the negotiations of the Trans Pacific Partnership.

What is the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)?

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a massive new international trade pact being negotiated by the U.S. government and twelve TPP countries:

Australia	Chile	New Zealand	United States
Brunei	Malaysia	Peru	Vietnam
Canada	Mexico	Singapore	Japan

The TPP will be the largest Free Trade Agreement in U.S. history, covering approximately 40% of the global economy, affecting not only tariffs and quotas, but also government procurement decisions, financial regulations, medicine patents, food safety standards, telecommunications policy, energy exports, Internet protocols, state sovereignty and more. In addition, the TPP is also specifically intended as a "docking agreement" that other Pacific Rim countries would join over time, with Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea and others already expressing some interest. This docking mechanism means both that the pact could grow beyond its current dozen nations and that it is likely to have lasting impacts on U.S. policy for decades to come.

Controversy:

Many civil society groups oppose this agreement. Some dispute the ethics of an unregulated market that allows corporations to operate with an increasing lack of accountability to citizens or to governments, both in developed and developing nations. These voices include labor unions, churches, advocacy groups and a number of elected officials, who, in the case of the latter, are pressuring the U.S. administration to require more transparency in the negotiating process for the Congress.

Points of contention include:

- * Secrecy of the negotiation process
- * Potential carry-over of investor-state provisions
- * Incentives to offshore jobs and weaken labor rights
- * Lack of public discourse
- * Access to medicines

For more information: Check out the Joining Hands Website at

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/joininghands/support-trade-reform/> If you would like to join us in this work, please contact Lori Hylton, Hunger Action Enabler for Hudson River Presbytery at felixhyl@gmail.com or Rev. Pam Lupfer at loopslair@aol.com.