

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL OPPOSING THE ENACTMENT OF HARMFUL FEDERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Griffith Town Council, as the fiscal and legislative body of the Town of Griffith, from time to time encounters issues of public import and moment which invite an expression from the elected representatives as part of the public discourse on matters; and

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, Griffith citizens, various labor organizations and the United Steelworkers (USW) are encouraging communities nationwide to pass resolutions opposing these proposed trade policies, in particular the TPP, with an 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 or 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, Griffith steel workers and other workers in related industries, are threatened by unfair trade practices and the manipulation of currency; and

WHEREAS, given the enactment of the TPA, citizens of Griffith 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, the Griffith Town Council opposes the enactment of harmful federal trade agreements and desires to call upon our congressional delegation to oppose the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Griffith Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

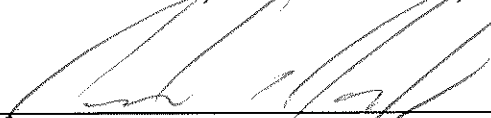
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1. The Griffith Town Council respectfully calls upon Senator Daniel Coats , Senator Joe Donnelly and Representative Pete Visclosky to oppose TPP as currently negotiated, and any similar proposed trade deals, such as the TTIP; and TiSa, if they fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past; and
2. The Griffith Town Council 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 enhances labor and environmental protections; and
- 3 That a copy of this Resolution be provided to Senator Dan Coats, Senator Joe Donnelly and Representative Pete Visclosky and the local media outlets.

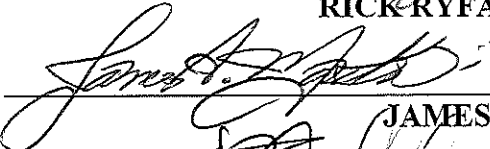
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage by the Griffith Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana.

SO RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, on this 18th day of October, 2016.

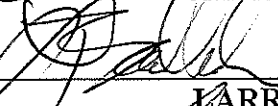
**COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF
GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**




RICK RYFA, President



JAMES MARKER



LARRY BALLAH



PATRICIA SCHAADT

ABSENT

TONY HOBSON

ATTEST:



JOHN VOLKMANN, Clerk-Treasurer