

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND
FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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April 28, 2015
Start: 11:01 a.m.
Recess: 11:10 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: KAREN KOSLOWITZ
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Inez E. Dickens
Brad S. Lander
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Ben Kallos
Alan N. Maisel
Antonio Reynoso

2 [sound check]

3 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet, please.

4 [gavel]

5 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Meeting of State
6 and Federal Legislation is called to order. Good
7 morning. I am the Chairperson of the State and
8 Federal Legislation Committee. On today's agenda we
9 will be voting on Proposed Resolution No. 576-A.
10 First, I'd like to introduce the members of the
11 committee that are present at this time. We have
12 Alan Maisel from Brooklyn. We have Ben Kallos from
13 Manhattan, Brad Lander from Brooklyn--

14 MALE SPEAKER: Rafael Espinosa. [off
15 mic]

16 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: --and Rafael
17 Espinal--Espinal from Brooklyn. Brooklyn's in the
18 house. Yesterday, we had a hearing on Proposed
19 Resolution 576-A, which seeks to declare the City of
20 New York a TPP-Free Zone, and urges Congress to
21 oppose the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities
22 and Accountability Act of 2015 and not grant
23 President Obama fast track authority over, or
24 permission to sign, the Trans-Pacific Partnership
25 free trade agreement. At yesterday's hearing, over

2 20 groups, which represent thousands of New Yorkers
3 testified in favor of this resolution. We even had
4 singing, which included members of the labor
5 movement, environmental groups and human rights
6 advocates. No groups testified in opposition to
7 proposal resolution 576-A. At this time, I'd like to
8 call Helen Rosenthal, Council Member, who is a
9 sponsor of this resolution.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: That's it?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [laughter]

13 Council Member Koslowitz, thank you so much for
14 bringing this resolution to your committee today.
15 Having our amazing hearing yesterday where we heard
16 from 26 representatives and individuals. But
17 representatives of institutions that stand up for
18 thousands--hundreds of thousands of Americans who
19 have deep concerns about the Trans-Pacific
20 Partnership, and are gravely concerned about its fast
21 track through Congress. I appreciate the support of
22 my colleagues here today, and throughout the Council
23 in our efforts to send a strong and deliberate
24 message to Congress, and to the President of the
25 United States that he should hit the pause button on

2 this trade agreement. And open the trade agreement
3 up to a public and robust debate and dialogue with
4 room for amendments and tweaks or changes to the
5 bill. So that we can seriously address the concerns
6 that were raised yesterday. Serious concerns about
7 the loss of jobs, union jobs, good paying jobs, the
8 possible impact on excellent progressive legislation
9 in cities like ours like paid sick days and banning
10 smoking in restaurants. And so, again, I say to you,
11 thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you, and if
13 we can roll call please.

14 CLERK: William Martin Committee Clerk.
15 Roll call vote Committee on State and Federal
16 Legislation. Chair Koslowitz.

17 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Lander.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Request
20 permission--[on mic] request permission to explain my
21 vote. Thank you, Madam Chair, for brining this to
22 the floor. Thank you Council Member Rosenthal for
23 leading the way on this important issue. We heard
24 great testimony yesterday at the hearing. I am proud
25 of what New York City is doing on the pressing issues

2 of climate change and income and equality.
3 Unfortunately, things happening across the planet on
4 those issues make it harder and harder for us to
5 achieve those goals. And fast tracking the Trans-
6 Pacific Partnership really risks deeply undermining
7 the process--progress that we're making on setting
8 high standards to address climate change and high
9 standards to help lift all workers up. So,
10 therefore, I'm a strong supporter of this resolution.
11 Thank you, Council Member Rosenthal and Chair
12 Koslowitz. I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Espinal.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I proudly vote
15 aye.

16 CLERK: Kallos.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I also proudly
18 vote aye.

19 CLERK: By a vote of five in the
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
21 the item has been adopted.

22 [pause, background comments]

23 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

24 Council Member Reynoso. [coughs]

25

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2 CLERK: Council Member--Council Member
3 Reynoso.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
5 all.

6 CLERK: The vote now stands at 6 in the
7 affirmative.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Okay, we're going
9 to hold the vote open for 30 minutes, a half hour,
10 and with that, this Committee is adjourned.

11 [gavel]

12 [background comments]

13 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: You ready?

14 CLERK: Council Member Dickens.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

16 CLERK: The final vote now in the
17 Committee on State and Federal Legislation,
18 Resolution 576-A is now 7 in the affirmative, 0 in
19 the negative and no abstentions.

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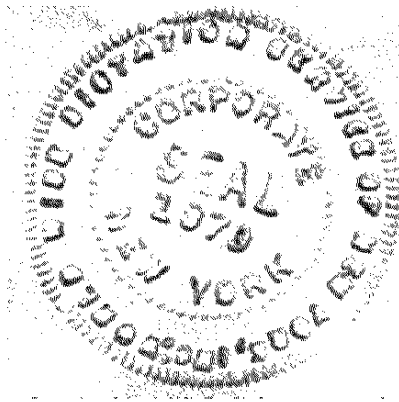
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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date May 5, 2015