

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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B E F O R E:

KAREN KOSLOWITZ  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ALAN N. MAISEL  
ANTONIO REYNOSO  
BEN KALLOS  
BRAD S. LANDER  
INEZ E. DICKENS  
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Alexander Gleason  
Policy Associate  
New York City Central Trade Labor Counsel

Pete Sikora  
Communications Workers of America

Ken Gale  
Foundeer  
New York City Safe Energy Coalition

Stephanie Lowe  
Sierra Club

Donna Sousa  
Ultrasound Technician  
New York University Langone Medical Center

Raging Grannies of New York City

Olive Freud  
Citizen

Ling Tsou  
Co-founder  
United for Action

Edie Kantrowitz  
United for Action

Susan Metz  
Park Slope Food Co-Op; Brooklyn.

Ann Garvin  
Park Slope Food Co-Op; Brooklyn

Eric Weltman  
Food and Water Watch

Adam Weisma  
Trade Justice New York Metro

## A P P E A R E N C E S (CONTINUED)

Alice Sutter  
North Manhattan Neighbors for Peace and Justice

Stephen Phelps  
Reverend

Audrey Iszard  
Chair  
Alliance for Retired Americans - New York City

Sarah Swisher  
Big Apple Coffee Party

David Vassar  
Transportation Alternatives

Johnathan Reese  
Big Apple Coffee Party

Joel Kupforman  
National Lawyers Guild Environmental Justice  
Committee

Leandra Recen  
Citizen

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Allen Maisel,  
Council Member Ben Kallos, and Council Member Helen  
Rosenthal. Proposed Resolution 576 A seeks to  
declare the city of New York a TPP-free zone and  
urges congress to oppose the bipartisan  
congressional trade priorities and accountability  
act of 2015 and not grant President Obama fast  
track authority over or permission to sign the  
transpacific partnership free trade agreement. Fast  
track authority grants the president the power to  
negotiate trade agreements, draft implementing  
legislation to change American law and sign  
agreements into international law. Congressional  
involvement is regulated to only 20 hours of debate  
and then up and down vote on the final bill with no  
ability to amend the agreement. The TPP is the  
largest trade agreement since the North American  
free trade act of 1994. Given the impact that the  
free trade agreements have on business interests,  
labor, the environment and human rights this  
committee felt it was necessary to hear from the  
public concerning their thoughts on the TPP and  
whether they support or oppose our resolution. I

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2 would like to introduce my colleague Council Member  
3 Helen Rosenthal, the sponsor of Resolution 576A and  
4 I invite her to say a few words in support of this  
5 resolution.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
7 much Chair Koslowitz. Thank you to the committee  
8 for giving us an, for giving me an opportunity to  
9 speak and for your hearing this resolution today.  
10 I, I just have to start by saying what a pleasure  
11 it is to look out on this group of individuals,  
12 these activists who have worked, who work so hard  
13 on the issues that matter to everyday New Yorkers.  
14 Thank you so much for being here. I'm going to not  
15 include everyone so I apologize. It's only because  
16 I have a memory like a sieve. So I want to thank  
17 the Communication Workers of America, Sierra Club  
18 the New York City group, our friends our good  
19 friends in Allies at the Food and Water Alliance,  
20 the New York City Central Labor Council, the New  
21 York State AFLCIO, the Alliance for Democracy, 350  
22 dot org, Move On dot org, the Federation of  
23 Protestant Welfare Agencies, and everyone else who  
24 is here including of course the mighty upper west  
25 side for standing so strong on this incredibly

2 important issue. I stand with my colleagues in  
3 government here in New York City and arose the  
4 country who are speaking out against TPP. And I am  
5 just so delighted that yesterday our mayor Bill de  
6 Blasio came out so strong against TPP and Fast  
7 Track. I really want to thank him for that. The  
8 Transpacific Partnership or TPP is meant to  
9 eliminate certain trade barriers between 12 nations  
10 including the United States. But when you start to  
11 read the deal or at least what we've been able to  
12 learn about the deal since most of the provisions  
13 have been kept in secret we know that TPP would be  
14 incredibly harmful to our country and to our city.  
15 Before we get into the details let's be clear this  
16 trade agreement has been negotiated almost  
17 completely behind closed doors. Well doors that are  
18 closed to the public but open to about 600  
19 corporate individuals who have been negotiating  
20 this deal with the president. A few weeks ago it  
21 was announced that congress did reach a compromise  
22 with the president, introduced a bipartisan  
23 congressional trade priorities and accountability  
24 act of 2015. The act would give congress and the  
25 public only a short amount of time to review the

2 final TPP agreement but no one would be given an  
3 opportunity to amend it. That is not a robust and  
4 healthy democratic debate or process. And as...  
5 mentioned this morning that is not what our  
6 founding fathers had in mind. So we don't get to  
7 see the details but some has been like leaked out.  
8 Some of the details have been leaked out and  
9 without a doubt these details make it clear that  
10 this deal would be bad from, for New York City. It  
11 immediately rips the autonomy for our city and for  
12 city and states across the country away. It allows  
13 for multinational corporations to undermine our  
14 city laws in order to move forward their corporate  
15 greed their corporate profit. Look we've worked  
16 incredibly hard to pass laws that protect New  
17 Yorkers. We have an ambitious agenda moving forward  
18 to protect New Yorkers in terms of the environment.  
19 The mayor recently introduced one New York City  
20 plan to bring 800 thousand New Yorkers out of  
21 poverty and build a more resilient New York City.  
22 But if any of those ideas were to get in the way of  
23 some multi-national's profits they could sue New  
24 York City. We've already done so much with paid  
25 sick leave. Frankly Mayor Bloomberg with getting

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2 smoking out of restaurants, what if Phillip Morris  
3 decides that gets in the way of their profitability  
4 we could overturn anyone of those laws. It's for  
5 those reasons and so many others that I'm fully  
6 confident you will speak about today that I am so  
7 proud to be the prime sponsor along with my  
8 colleagues who have joined me today and in this  
9 resolution to oppose FastTrack, to oppose TPP, and  
10 frankly it is only symbolic but it is critically  
11 important symbolism that we make New York City a  
12 TPP-free zone. Thank you so much Council Member  
13 Koslowitz for giving the public possibly the only  
14 opportunity they will have to speak out against TPP  
15 and FastTrack. Thank you.

16 [applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you  
18 Council Member. Alright. I'm going to ask you not  
19 to applaud. If you want to show your enthusiasm go  
20 like this. At this time I'd like to call on Alex,  
21 got to put on my glasses, Alex Gleason, New York  
22 Central Labor Council.

23 ALEXANDER GLEASON: Good morning. My  
24 name is Alex Gleason and I am the policy associate  
25 at the New York City Central Labor Council, AFLCIO,



2 representing 1.3 million workers and 300 affiliated  
3 unions. The Central Labor Council is strongly  
4 opposed to the FastTrack of the Transpacific  
5 Partnership and in favor of Resolution 576. Working  
6 people are being deprioritized for transnational  
7 corporate interest. Perhaps one of the only issues  
8 with bipartisan support in Washington, the TPP will  
9 adversely affect the real income of 90 percent of  
10 citizens. What are the details of the trade deal?  
11 Unfortunately we do not know the specifics of the  
12 bill as negotiations have occurred in the quiet  
13 rooms and corridors of power in DC. There are a  
14 number of details we do know about TPP. We know the  
15 legislation will eliminate any sort of by American  
16 provisions for procurement giving US firms no edge  
17 in the acquisition of goods and services by the  
18 government. TPP will also create patent protections  
19 for much of the intellectual property of the  
20 world's largest corporations, remove some of the  
21 rigorous health standards for food products sold in  
22 the United States, and alter a number of  
23 regulations ensuring the safety of drugs that keep  
24 us healthy. Additionally the TPP will establish an  
25 international court to decide trade disputes with

2 sovereignty over any individual state or  
3 institution. America has seen the result of poorly  
4 devised trade policy with the North American free  
5 trade agreement. For the last two decades NAFTA has  
6 dramatically impeded the growth of the United  
7 States domestic economy and with it the middle  
8 income jobs allowing workers to build wealth. NAFTA  
9 has also created jobs in life displacement in the  
10 United States as well as Mexico. The flood of  
11 subsidized American agriculture into Mexico has  
12 effectively priced out its own industry and  
13 workforce [cross-talk]. Since enacting NAFTA many  
14 American, Mexican farmers have been displaced from  
15 their livelihoods, livelihood and forced to migrate  
16 sometimes dangerously into the United States. We  
17 can certainly expect worse from TPP. Rather than  
18 empowering our states and governments to facilitate  
19 economic growth the TPP will give the largest best  
20 in trench corporations a greater proportion of  
21 power and voice than currently enjoyed. The  
22 transpacific partnership epitomizes a bad deal. It  
23 is bad for union members, for non-union workers,  
24 small businesses, and the holistic wellbeing of our  
25 city. Thank you for your time and consideration.

2 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Okay. What... I  
3 have a question for you.

4 ALEXANDER GLEASON: Absolutely Council  
5 Member.

6 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: What industries  
7 would be most adversely affected if we entered into  
8 the TPP?

9 ALEXANDER GLEASON: Certainly any, any  
10 industries that are currently manufacturing in the  
11 United States right. This is going to impact our  
12 ability to compete abroad and price out a lot of  
13 the industries here, any, any wage earning folks  
14 who are doing work that's tied to any sort of  
15 international agreement right, so for instance  
16 folks in the agriculture, certainly folks who work  
17 in the health care industry absolutely will be  
18 affected, anybody trying to get a patent or to, to  
19 innovate and create something innovative, small  
20 entrepreneurs, small business people, tech  
21 incubators and start-ups. These folks are going to  
22 be inhibited right. So I mean realistically the  
23 retail and food service industry right. If, if  
24 you're seeing a depression of wages I mean every  
25 single industry will be impacted.

2 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you.

3 ALEXANDER GLEASON: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you very  
5 much. Pete Sikora.

6 PETE SIKORA: Thank you so much Council  
7 Members. My name is Pete Sikora. I'm with the  
8 Communications Workers of America. We represent  
9 about 35 thousand union members in a wide range of  
10 sectors living and working in New York City. CWI  
11 represents public sector, healthcare,  
12 telecommunications, manufacturing, media, and other  
13 workers. I'm going to talk very fast. My testimony  
14 is too long. It's very detailed, very comprehensive  
15 on jobs and some other issues. But first quickly a  
16 political point. They're trying to put FastTrack on  
17 the floor in the House next week. This week, I'm  
18 sorry, this week, next week is a recess week. So  
19 this is a very very timely hearing and an important  
20 thing that you're doing that will have national  
21 resonance tomorrow. So we thank you for doing this.  
22 On the point of jobs every so called free trade  
23 deal is sold the same way, by its proponents, it  
24 will create jobs through increased exports. Free  
25 traders such as President Obama in this case almost

2 always talk about jobs quote unquote supported by  
3 the deals. They ignore the impact of imports.  
4 That's how the Obama administration sold the most  
5 recent deal, the Korea free trade deal. The  
6 administration, the assorted corporate interests,  
7 told us that the deal would quote support 70  
8 thousand American jobs. But in the first three  
9 years of the deal the US goods trade deficit with  
10 Korea ballooned and estimated 84 percent or 12.7  
11 billion. And that corresponds to a net loss of 85  
12 thousand American jobs. That's the pattern of these  
13 deals. The deal is sold as a job creator for  
14 America jobs. Then the deal is pushed through  
15 congress, signed, and goes into effect and the  
16 trade deficit promptly sores with that country or  
17 countries. While some export supported jobs are  
18 created net jobs are lost. And to your point our  
19 union represents call center workers as well as  
20 manufacturing workers, many affected industries. In  
21 Verizon alone in just New York we've lost over a  
22 thousand good paying union jobs in call centers to  
23 overseas greased on the skids of these bad deals.  
24 That's how we get job losses here. So the testimony  
25 includes a bunch of specific information about the

2 numerical data here so the countries that are free  
3 trade deal countries we have higher deficits with  
4 them then the countries that are not free trade  
5 deal countries. There's a lot of good evidence that  
6 shows the job losses. NAFTA alone costs 700  
7 thousand American jobs. So successive bad trade  
8 deals have greatly enhanced the ability of big  
9 investors and multinational corporations to move  
10 capital through investment flows and stronger  
11 contract rights and therefore move jobs. The other  
12 side though acts as if technological change is the  
13 only force making outsourcing easier. But don't  
14 believe that hype. These deals are critical to  
15 allowing corporations to move jobs to the lowest  
16 paid countries that have the weakest environmental  
17 health safety and labor protections. Job loss to  
18 offshoring is not an inevitability it's a conscious  
19 set of policy choices that maximize corporate  
20 profits over the interest of American workers, the  
21 environment consumers, internet freedom, a whole  
22 lot of issues that are affected in the TPP. And the  
23 TPP is the biggest deal yet. It would grant multi-  
24 national inform corporations on presented rights  
25 over your law making abilities. And it grants these

2 rights to foreign corporations based in countries  
3 such as Vietnam where the minimum wage is 52 cents  
4 an hour. Alex mentioned that by American provisions  
5 would be prohibited. That means that you can't  
6 write contracts in New York City that do local  
7 purchasing. That would no longer be a city power  
8 under the TPP. In fact if the city did so it'd be  
9 subject to lawsuit in a private trade tribunal by a  
10 foreign corporation that could recover, and this is  
11 the term of art in the deal itself expected future  
12 profits lost and demand taxpayer compensation for  
13 those lost profits. The city of New York would have  
14 to pay to compensate a foreign corporation. So I  
15 can read you in here the investment definition. But  
16 I'll leave that to you. It's an expansive  
17 definition of what an investment is and what  
18 they're allowed to sue over. And that means that  
19 they can sue over things like you deciding to  
20 implement stronger regulations is a cost to them  
21 doing business therefore they can empty the city's  
22 pockets as compensation for their lost profits due  
23 to your regulatory action in a private trade  
24 tribunal with arbitrators who bounce between  
25 corporations and the trade courts. That's how this

2 works. It's stunning. It's, almost sounds like a  
3 conspiracy theory when you really start to kind of  
4 parse it out but it's reality and it's happening  
5 right now. So these provisions would be a Bonanza  
6 for multinational corporations. The deal would  
7 restrain the city of New York and other levels of  
8 government from lawmaking that might inhibit those  
9 profits. That's why it's hard to imagine that the  
10 city would be willing to run afoul of the treaty  
11 and pass or continue to enforce local contracting  
12 requirements or other domestic purchasing which  
13 would lead to job losses. Somebody's going to  
14 mention the fracking ban you'll hear about it a  
15 lot. That's a good example of a state level  
16 regulation that would be threatened by this deal.  
17 You should not believe all the hype that the free  
18 traders talk about as New York City as a center of  
19 international commerce and therefore we're  
20 benefiting from these deals. In fact we've lost  
21 massive numbers of jobs. And for example in 2000  
22 they were about 173 thousand manufacturing workers  
23 in this city. Now there are 76 thousand according  
24 to the most recent DOL data. While manufacturing  
25 job losses aren't exclusively the result of these



2 deals. The current free trade model is a very  
3 substantial driver. The same is true of call center  
4 jobs and job losses in many other industries. To  
5 take one example of a free trade a representative  
6 Greg Meeks often sites JFK jobs as a reason to be a  
7 free trade deal supporter. Yet employment at JFK  
8 actually has not increased over time and there was  
9 a strike there recently. Certainly there are some  
10 jobs created by these deals but they are hugely  
11 outnumbered by job losses. The free trader  
12 arguments are simply a mirage. So finally as  
13 President Obama, Mayor de Blasio, and many council  
14 members have said growing income inequality is the  
15 great challenge of our time, possibly along with  
16 climate change. There is a broad academic consensus  
17 that our trade deals have fueled the growth of  
18 inequality. Broad consensus. For analysts and  
19 researchers the question isn't whether trade deals  
20 have increased American income inequality it's how  
21 much trade deals have increased income inequality.  
22 It's easy to see why. The main losers in these  
23 deals are middle and lower income communities  
24 including disproportionately communities of color.  
25 The main beneficiaries are the corporate executive

2 investor class. The evidence suggests that  
3 somewhere between 10 and 40 percent of the growth  
4 of US inequality is a result of trade flows. For  
5 these and other reasons CWA and every other  
6 national labor union oppose FastTrack which is the  
7 legislative process to ram the TPP through  
8 congress. That unity of opposition is simply  
9 unprecedented. You see this coalition here, not  
10 just labor. Our unified opposition reflects our  
11 practical experiences with the areas that we deal  
12 with as organizations and as unions. It also  
13 reflects the growing body of evidence that these  
14 trade deals are ruining America. The world led by  
15 the US should move to a new model of trade that  
16 emphasizes raising standards, not fueling a global  
17 race to the bottom that enhances corporate profits  
18 and global elites wealth at everyone else's  
19 expense. Trade can generate real gains but the TPP  
20 will not. Thank you for giving us the opportunity  
21 to express our support for the resolution.

22 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I have a  
23 question. What do you think that they would do this  
24 in secret the way they're doing it that hurts so  
25 many..

2 PETE SIKORA: It's really very...

3 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: ...so many people.

4 PETE SIKORA: Yeah and it's very simple  
5 because the individual provisions of the deal could  
6 never pass in the light of day. The kinds of things  
7 that I just talked about would never pass on a  
8 standalone vote in congress. They're crazy. So what  
9 they do is they create a secret process to then  
10 batter down regulatory protections country by  
11 country by country so that big multinational  
12 corporations can benefit. Now the excuse for it is  
13 that we have to have negotiations in secret that if  
14 we don't have negotiations in secret how can we get  
15 the other countries to deliver their best offers.  
16 But what the US is doing in these secret  
17 negotiations is pushing terrible terrible policy.  
18 The other countries are being asked to, to, to take  
19 extended drug patents that would kill their  
20 citizens as an example, other things that are just  
21 equally terrible. So this stuff should be brought  
22 into the light of day. It's policy making and it  
23 should be subject to, to public information. It's  
24 no coincidence that the draft documents are not  
25 going to be released until four years after the

2 deal itself is signed which is insane. It's insane.  
3 Again it just sounds like conspiracy thinking but  
4 it's reality.

5 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Why would they  
6 want to hurt our people?

7 PETE SIKORA: Well you know it keeps me  
8 up at night almost literally thinking about like  
9 why does the president, why is the president  
10 pushing this deal. So he is aligned in this case  
11 with John Boehner and Mitch McConnell and almost  
12 all of the corporate lobbies. Not every single  
13 corporate lobby, some of them take issue with some  
14 part of it. But almost every corporate entity is  
15 pushing for this deal and the president is carrying  
16 this, this agreement forward. I don't understand  
17 ultimately why he's pushing it. I certainly  
18 understand why John Boehner and Mitch McConnell  
19 are. Fortunately all of us are united and virtually  
20 every house democrat is also united. There's broad  
21 consensus in this city; the mayor, the council, the  
22 state, state level lawmakers, council members,  
23 organizations. In fact there's never been a  
24 coalition like this opposing an issue like this.  
25 And I'll just note that that's particularly amazing

2 given that the mainstream media has not covered  
3 this at all until it actually, the bill got  
4 introduced. There's been almost no coverage of just  
5 a massively important issue. That's another  
6 question why does, why does that happen. But, but I  
7 don't know why they're doing this is the bottom  
8 line. The obvious answer is big money is behind it.  
9 That's always a factor in politics as you all know.  
10 And that, that matters.

11 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: So do people  
12 matter.

13 PETE SIKORA: That's right.

14 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: More.

15 PETE SIKORA: That's right. That's  
16 right. We're going to win or lose on this in the  
17 next few weeks and I think we're going to win.

18 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you so  
19 much.

20 PETE SIKORA: Thank you. Yep.

21 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Alright now  
22 because we have so many people that are going to  
23 testify I'm going to call panels and each one has  
24 three minutes to express their favor or disfavor.  
25 Donna Susa, Stephen, Stephanie Ron, and Ken...

2 Stephanie... and Ken Gale. Not today, tomorrow. How  
3 you doing? Three, three, three at a time. Just  
4 before you speak state your name and read or say  
5 whatever you want to. You want to start?

6 KEN GALE: Button... okay. Thank you for  
7 holding this hearing and for the opportunity to  
8 speak on bill number 576 making TPP-free zone for  
9 New York City. My name is Ken Gale and I am the  
10 founder of the New York City Safe Energy Coalition  
11 and the host and producer of the environmental  
12 radio show Ecologic on WBII FM here in New York  
13 City. The Godfather movies had a line; nothing  
14 personal, just business. It was an illustration of  
15 mothy immorality then that now seems to be an  
16 accepted part of legal businesses. NAFTA codified  
17 that attitude somewhat in the 90s and now the  
18 transpacific partnership is looking to codify to an  
19 extreme. Please pass this bill. Government has a  
20 responsibility for the health and wellbeing of  
21 those who are governed. TPP would make that nearly  
22 impossible. The clean water act, clean air act, and  
23 the safe drinking water act are pretty good pieces  
24 of legislation. People used to get sick from  
25 polluted air and polluted water. Some people died

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2 from that pollution. TPP written by polluters would  
3 find those laws a threat to quote future profits  
4 unquote and... not in public court but a secret  
5 international tribunal. And when people get sick  
6 they will no longer have access to generic drugs,  
7 TPP would get rid of those too. It's a local  
8 economic threat. Healthy workers and healthy  
9 students are more productive, let's keep them that  
10 way. Pass this bill. A pacific rim mining company  
11 already proved that corporations are willing to sue  
12 in order to poison people. The nation of El  
13 Salvador told them they couldn't put a gold mine in  
14 the mountains because it would put cyanide  
15 poisoning into the water supply of half the  
16 population. El Salvador was sued. Another piece of  
17 good environmental legislation TPP would attack is  
18 the endangered species act. Whether you feel those  
19 animals and plants were put on earth by god or by  
20 nature we do not have the moral right to kill them.  
21 Don't allow Godfather morality to undue the  
22 endangered species act. Please pass bill number  
23 576. So another piece of good environmental  
24 legislation TPP would attack is the city council's  
25 own goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80

1 COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION 24  
2 percent. Fossil fuel companies are writing TPP and  
3 will go after that too. Someone once told me that  
4 businesses are not immoral they're amoral so long  
5 as they do what's legal. That is such a crock of...  
6 well it's the word the FCC wouldn't allow me to say  
7 on the radio. Slavery was not amoral when it was  
8 legal. It was immoral. The chapters of TPP that  
9 would undermine hard fought democratic freedoms are  
10 immoral not amoral. And by the way on my radio show  
11 tomorrow Council Member Helen Rosenthal and Pete  
12 Sikora from CWA you just heard will be on. That's  
13 tomorrow 8:00 p.m. WBAI 99.5 FM and WBAI dot org.  
14 When the... water are clean thank an environmentalist  
15 if not become one. 'nough said. Thank you.

16 UNKNOWN MALE: Thank you Mr. Ken Gale.  
17 Testifier state your name in the microphone. State  
18 your name in the microphone before you testify.

19 STEPHANIE LOWE: Stephanie Lowe is my  
20 name and I am here representing the Sierra Club-New  
21 York City group-the TPP task force, as well as the  
22 Sierra Club Atlantic chapter Task Force. But this  
23 is our statements are held also by the national  
24 Sierra Club. I am not going to read my own  
25 statement because I'm sure everything I could say



2 is going to be said by other people. I have four  
3 statements from people who could not be here. I  
4 will try to cut them down as I speak. The first one  
5 is from Joseph Stiglitz who is a prize winning  
6 Nobel Laureate. I checked this with him to find out  
7 if it was okay to use in this context and he said  
8 yes. A secretive group met behind closed doors in  
9 New York last January for the TPP. What they  
10 decided may lead to higher drug prices for you and  
11 hundreds of millions around the world. Powerful  
12 companies appear to have been given influence over  
13 the proceedings even as full accesses withheld from  
14 many government officials from the partnership  
15 countries. Trade agreements and a particular  
16 individual provisions within them are typically far  
17 more difficult to alter or repeal than domestic  
18 laws. What's clear is that the overall thrust of  
19 the intellectual property section of the TPP is for  
20 less competition and higher drug prices. Of course  
21 pharmaceutical companies claim they need to charge  
22 high prices to fund, fund their research and  
23 development. That, this just isn't so. For one  
24 thing drug companies spend more on marketing and  
25 advertising than on new ideas. If big

2 pharmaceutical companies hold sway as the leaked  
3 documents indicate they do the TPP could block  
4 cheaper generic drugs from the market. Big farmers  
5 profits would rise at the expense of the health of  
6 patients and the budgets of consumers and  
7 governments. The whole world may come to pay a  
8 price in the form of worse health and unnecessary  
9 debts. There's more on that from Steve Toph [sp?]  
10 of New York State Nurses Association with 14  
11 thousand members. NYSNA is a union of nurses. We  
12 are a proud union and a proud profession with a  
13 history of not only standing up for working people  
14 but standing up for our patients. We are here today  
15 to say that TPP is not only just another bad trade  
16 agreement but the most damaging agreement we have  
17 seen with regard to public health. It subordinates  
18 public health to profit. And as a union of nurses  
19 NYSNA will stand together with our patients to  
20 defend public health from the Bronx and Brooklyn to  
21 Vietnam and Australia. This agreement is a handout  
22 to those profiting from disease and misery and a  
23 slap in the face to working people everywhere. And  
24 Josh Fox's statement, prize winning documentary  
25 film maker and environmental activist he is.. TPP

2 proponents will tell you otherwise but we know from  
3 leaked chapters that this deal will have disastrous  
4 consequences for the anti-fracking movement. Hidden  
5 provisions allow corporations to sue national state  
6 and local governments for passing environmental  
7 protections that interfere with their profits.  
8 Under a similar NAFTA rule a company called Loan  
9 Pine sued the Canadian government for 250 million  
10 dollars for passing a fracking ban. The TPP will  
11 also make it harder for the US to manage its  
12 natural gas exports encouraging more fracking to  
13 satisfy foreign markets like Japan who is largest  
14 importer of natural gas in the world. This deal  
15 could undue years of grassroots activism and  
16 threaten the health and safety of our communities.  
17 And one very last word from Isabel Ostrer who is a  
18 fellow at the Student Global AIDS Campaign. We  
19 cannot allow big farmer to increase its profits at  
20 the expense of patients' health and lives. Thank  
21 you.

22 DONNA SOUSA: My name is Donna Sousa.  
23 I'm an ultrasound technologist from New York  
24 University Langone and Medical Center. And  
25 basically my message is very short and sweet. I

2 don't see how any legislator at any level can vote  
3 for a so-called trade agreement that compromises  
4 the sovereignty of our country and our state and  
5 local laws and how we can give multinational  
6 corporations more power than our own citizens would  
7 have with, if this passes. Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. I  
9 want to ask a question. Environmental groups have  
10 opposed the TPP FastTrack because of concerns that  
11 it could result in a trade agreements that weakens  
12 environmental regulations. Please explain clearly..

13 KEN GALE: The, the various polluting  
14 industries have been attacking environmental  
15 legislations since we've had them. They look upon  
16 the expense at having a cleaner business as  
17 something they just don't want to pay. They ignore  
18 what it does to their workers and they ignore what  
19 it does to the people who buy their products. They  
20 look upon it as an expense. What we have here is  
21 social, socialism for the wealthy. The expenses are  
22 socialized and profits are privatized. And that's  
23 what the polluting companies really have against  
24 any environmental legislation.

2 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Are there any  
3 provisions that could be added into the TPP that  
4 would cause the organization to support its  
5 passage?

6 KEN GALE: I think a vote making sure  
7 that TPP does not pass is the only way to support  
8 the environmental clauses of the TPP.

9 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: So there's no...

10 KEN GALE: There is, there is so much  
11 poison... The, there's only been five chapters out of  
12 29 that have been leaked. And what those chapters  
13 show is just horror to every citizen of the United  
14 States and the 13 dignitary countries.

15 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Okay. Thank you  
16 very much. Thank you.

17 STEPHANIE LOWE: I believe I could speak  
18 a little bit to your question about how this would  
19 impact environmental protections. The, the, NAFTA  
20 contains a mechanism called the investor state  
21 dispute settlement. It allows large corporations  
22 doing business in the company, in the country that  
23 is a member of the agreement to rise to the level  
24 of a nation state and sue that country. It can sue  
25 it for large amounts of money and it generally

2 wins. The taxpayers responsible for that the, they,  
3 I will give you an example. The, in, in NAFTA there  
4 is the ISDS mechanism has been used by an American  
5 company to sue an American fracking company, to sue  
6 the country of Canada which has a ban, which has a  
7 moratorium on fracking. Is this, this... company  
8 wants to of course do fracking in Canada. Canada  
9 is, is, is concerned for its water source for 100  
10 thousand people and so it, it, it called a ban, a  
11 moratorium on this. The, if, if, if the fracking  
12 company wins it will not only be allowed to frack  
13 it will also collect a 250 million dollar fine for  
14 Canada's boldness in having a ban on fracking. This  
15 particular mechanism is embedded in the TPP but  
16 where NAFTA is three companies the TPP is 12. It's  
17 the largest trade agreement ever written and it  
18 would cover 40 percent of global trade so that the  
19 consequences would be far, far greater. Any country  
20 that has a business such as Japan, Japan has 7,000  
21 businesses in the United States under which it  
22 could sue the United States government for its, any  
23 impeachment on what it calls its future expected  
24 profits. You've heard about this in other peoples'  
25 testimony but this is precisely how it could impact

2 environmental law. Our environmental laws would be  
3 at the mercy of a transnational, not a domestic,  
4 but a transnational court made up of three private  
5 attorneys who work, who, some of whom have had  
6 access to writing the TPP agreement. So you see  
7 what the problem is.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Council...

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
10 much. Stephanie you just did in many ways answered  
11 my question but you've gone to the exact heart of  
12 the problem for, from the perspective of New York  
13 City.

14 STEPHANIE LOWE: Mm-hmm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Where we have  
16 so many good laws that protect our residents that  
17 then would be subject to this three member nation  
18 state as you interestingly and appropriately call  
19 the investor state clause. You know one of the  
20 things that I've noticed and I wanted to get your  
21 thoughts on this is that currently the  
22 multinationals go after the weakest countries in  
23 order to achieve their goals. Specifically I'm  
24 thinking of Phillip Morris who recently sued

2 Uruguay, Australia too because of their bans on  
3 smoking.

4 STEPHANIE LOWE: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And I was  
6 wondering..

7 KEN GALE: And Bolivia too.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And Bolivia?  
9 Thank you. So I'm wondering what is it about this  
10 agreement that would put the United States more at  
11 risk? And you started to answer it by saying that  
12 there are so many more countries involved but to  
13 know that Canada has already been sued which seems  
14 like you know a first world country. I mean it,  
15 it's really disconcerting. And I was wondering if  
16 you wanted to speak to that because I really  
17 thought you hit the nail on the head with why I'm  
18 so proud of this resolution.

19 STEPHANIE LOWE: I, I think you're  
20 absolutely right. It could impact us on ways that I  
21 hadn't even thought of before when you mentioned  
22 our smoking ban. Phillip Morris has no hesitance in  
23 suing. In fact in Australia they had lost their  
24 case then they joined a bilateral agreement in  
25 order to bring the case in a transnational court



2 where they won. They have no scruples. They don't  
3 care about our health. They don't care about  
4 anything except their profit line. This is what  
5 corporations supposedly are supposed to do. But  
6 when it comes to our lives I think we have to stand  
7 up and say no we're not going to do it.

8 KEN GALE: A Mexican company sued the  
9 United States under NAFTA for dolphin safe tuna  
10 labels. So their, their attacks on, on legislation  
11 just really know no bounds. It can be as petty as  
12 that or it can be as major just drinking water for  
13 half a country.

14 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you very  
15 much. Next panel Mercy [clears throat] excuse me,  
16 Mercy Van Vlack, Olive Friend, and Ling Tsou. We  
17 just been joined by Council Member Dickens.

18 [background comments]

19 Should we start? Alright let's start.  
20 Ready? Have you heard of TPP? [cross-talk]

21 [singing]

22 GROUP: [singing]...It's a secret you can  
23 see. Bye bye unions. Transpacific partnership all  
24 involved keep closed lips. Bye bye public health.  
25 It was leaked that it will unleash Wall Street.

2 Corporations will change laws through deceit.  
3 Pharmaceuticals with glee keep their drug monopoly.  
4 World aids care bye bye. Our officials have agreed  
5 to conceive to its needs. Bye bye clean air.  
6 Pacific countries east and west make TPP the  
7 scariest generic drugs. Bye bye clean air, clean  
8 water, and indigenous justice. GMO free foods are  
9 on their hit list. They are the human plan that the  
10 TPP will ban bye bye our rights. Now congress is  
11 bringing back the voting rules they call FastTrack.  
12 Bye bye democracy. FastTrack overrides protest.  
13 Objections will not be addressed. Bye bye  
14 transparency. When 11 nations meet for this show  
15 every pledge they make can be a dead blow.  
16 Transpacific partnership all your powers we must  
17 strip. TPP bye bye.

18 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Raging Grannies of New  
19 York City. Thank you.

20 [applause]

21 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I think so. Or  
22 The Voice. We can get them on The Voice. God bless.  
23 Okay. Are you going to sing?

24 [laughter]

25

2 OLIVE FREUD: Olive Freud. I belong to a  
3 lot of organizations but I'm speaking for myself.  
4 There's two issues here. It's the TPP itself, the  
5 agreement... it's the issue, the two issues are the  
6 treaty itself and the fact that they want the  
7 FastTrack. As far as the treaty itself is concerned  
8 we know from NAFTA how horrible a treaty this can  
9 be, what it can do to labor, what it can do to the  
10 environment. The rules that we have in this country  
11 if they don't have them in another country we can't  
12 stop one of the insecticides that we can't use in  
13 our produce. Another country doesn't use it but  
14 they can send in the produce here. The, the other  
15 thing is, the whole idea, what, what happens to a  
16 democracy? Where is congress? They have the right  
17 to look over a treaty. And they're abnegating it.  
18 This is just as terrible thing that's happening  
19 here under the guise of free trade, under the guise  
20 of free trade. Well we don't want free trade, we  
21 want fair trade. And that's more important. The  
22 thing that upsets me so much is the democrats are  
23 against it. Most of the democrats in congress are...  
24 what is pushing our president to push something  
25 that's so unpopular with this party and so

2 detrimental really to the people in this country.  
3 Obama has done many good things but you know he  
4 wasn't very good with settling the recession. He  
5 bailed out the Wall Street but he didn't do too  
6 much for the people who were losing their  
7 mortgages. When it comes to finance I think he  
8 needs to be pushed harder by the democrats. And  
9 also since there is going to be a vote and most  
10 democrats are against this FastTrack maybe we ought  
11 to be concentrating very hard on the few democrats  
12 who are wavering. This is a very bad idea.

13 LING TSOU: My name is Ling Tsou. I'm a  
14 cofounder of United for Action which is a  
15 grassroots all volunteer activist group in New York  
16 City. We wish to thank Council Member Helen  
17 Rosenthal for introducing resolution 576 declaring  
18 the city of New York a TPP free zone. If TPP is  
19 passed and signed into law this would threaten our  
20 existing policies to protect clean air, water, and  
21 land of our country. We would not be able to stop  
22 fracking the Keystone XL pipeline, defend the  
23 climate, and build a green economy. TPP is a trade  
24 agreement I name only. This is an agreement  
25 negotiated in secret with 11 pacific rim countries.

2 In reality 600 of the world's largest corporations  
3 including corporations like Chevron Halliburton,  
4 Monsanto, Wal-Mart, and many others are helping to  
5 compile a corporate wish list while the public and  
6 even almost all the members of congress are kept in  
7 the dark. The little we know about TPP came from  
8 text that had been leaked. Not a word of the draft  
9 text has been officially released. Leaked text show  
10 that governments signing TPP must align their  
11 national laws and regulations with the terms of the  
12 agreement which sets rules on everything including  
13 food safety, internet freedom, drug affordability,  
14 financial regulations, labor rights, and  
15 environment. For example liquefied natural gas, LNG  
16 exports can freely cross borders of TPP signatory  
17 nations. And that environmental review of the  
18 public impacts is banned. Therefore there will be  
19 no means of stopping LNG export terminals from  
20 sending fracked gas to Asia where it commands  
21 prices six times higher than in the US. Effectively  
22 TPP will foster a fracking shale gas boom in the  
23 US. As if this was not enough the TPP also expands  
24 on NAFTA's investor state provisions allowing  
25 corporations to sue nations for millions of dollars

2 in private international tribunals. Over laws and  
3 regulations they claim, affect their expected  
4 future profits. You have hear for example energy  
5 firm like Loan Pine Resources has used some of the  
6 rules in NAFTA to sue Canada for 250 million  
7 dollars over Quebec's monitorium on fracking for  
8 oil and gas. In addition TPP will outsource more  
9 jobs and bring hardship to many American working  
10 families. If TPP is so good for the American people  
11 and our country why keep it such a secret from the  
12 American public and congress. Why not release the  
13 full text and let us have a debate on the merits of  
14 this agreement. The only way we can stop  
15 Washington's mad rush to pass the FastTrack for TPP  
16 is for people to mobilize and speak out against  
17 TPP. I'm very glad that New York City Council will  
18 join the growing number of cities across the  
19 country adopting resolution to oppose TPP. Thank  
20 you.

21 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you.  
22 Before we continue I'd like to thank the staff  
23 Carlos Biatto [sp?] my counsel and Israel Martinez  
24 policy analyst. I want to thank you for all the  
25 hard work that you put into this. And now Edie

2 Kantrowitz, Katherine Scopic [sp?], and David  
3 Leverman [sp?].

4 EDIE KANTROWITZ: Hi, my name is Edie  
5 Kantrowitz. I am also with United for Action and  
6 I'm president of New York City Friends of  
7 Clearwater. And I would like to really thank the  
8 city council today for giving the public the  
9 opportunity to speak out about the TPP because  
10 there's been so little opportunity for public  
11 dialogue. I want to express my strongest support  
12 for the idea of establishing New York City as a TPP  
13 free zone. We must reject the transpacific  
14 partnership as well as any and all trade agreements  
15 that violate our national sovereignty and allow  
16 giant corporations to overrule our national, our  
17 state, and our local laws in the name of promoting  
18 quote unquote trade. I have no doubt that you're  
19 hearing plenty today about how the TPP could  
20 threaten food safety, restrict internet freedom,  
21 send jobs overseas and make it impossible for us to  
22 enforce our own environmental laws for which we  
23 have fought so hard. With droughts, earthquakes,  
24 warming temperatures, and sea level rise already  
25 wreaking havoc and causing tragedy in the world

2 today I'm sure you're also going to be hearing  
3 plenty about how the TPP threatens any hope we may  
4 still have of containing climate change to  
5 manageable levels. And as an environmentalist and  
6 just as a human being I'm really concerned about  
7 how the TPP is going to infect the environment. But  
8 I just want to focus right now on one other  
9 specific matter because it's one that to me seems  
10 unspeakably callous and it's already been mentioned  
11 today. But in the name of protecting profits for  
12 pharmaceutical companies the TPP threatens to deny  
13 access to life saving medications to those in  
14 developing countries where these medications are  
15 desperately needed. The humanitarian organization  
16 Doctors Without Boards explains that they rely  
17 extensively on generic medications in their  
18 programs to treat AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, and  
19 to other infectious diseases. They stated the first  
20 generation of HIV drugs have come down I price by  
21 99 percent over the last decade, 99 percent, from  
22 10 thousand dollars per person per year in 2000 to  
23 roughly 60 dollars today thanks to generic  
24 production in India, Brazil, and Thailand where  
25 these drugs were not patented. This dramatic price



1 COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION 41  
2 drop has been instrumental in helping scale up HIV  
3 and AIDS treatment for more than six million people  
4 in developing countries. About 80 percent of donor  
5 funded anti-AIDS drugs and 92 percent of drugs to  
6 treat children with AIDS across the developing  
7 world comes from generic manufacturers. Okay and I,  
8 I just want to say also that the problems  
9 surrounding generic drugs are not only in  
10 developing countries but we have very severe  
11 problems right here for example, the drug Plavix  
12 that's commonly given to heart attack patients and  
13 people after heart surgery before it recently  
14 became generic, 200 dollars a month okay. Generic  
15 drugs could be removed from the market by the  
16 process of moving their availability and older  
17 drugs by ever greening which would be extending the  
18 patents on old drugs simply by making...  
19 modifications to existing formulas. What epidemics  
20 are we going to allow to flourish in the name of  
21 protecting pharmaceutical profits. This is evil.  
22 How can those who promote the TPP have such a total  
23 and thoughtless disregard for human life. Let's  
24 declare New York City a TPP free zone.

25

2 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you. I'm  
3 reading for Katherine Scopic who had to leave.  
4 Thank you legislative council. Carlos Bioto, Chair  
5 Donovan Richards, Council Members Rosen, Chair  
6 Karen Koslowitz, sorry, Council Members Rosenthal,  
7 Richards, Rodriguez, and all the others who have  
8 signed for introducing this resolution  
9 understanding its potential negative impact and  
10 bringing it to the people of New York City. There's  
11 a quote from... This trade agreement involves 12  
12 countries and impacts all people and the planet.  
13 Quoting from resolution 576A, the resolution under  
14 discussion, quote... Whereas it has been reported  
15 that the agreement would include provisions  
16 concerning financial regulations, environmental  
17 protection, prescription drug pricing, and food  
18 sanitation standards the adoption of which could  
19 negatively affect the public's health, safety, and  
20 welfare and require the overhaul of America's  
21 domestic legal system and whereas the exact terms  
22 of this proposed agreement have not been disclosed  
23 to the public and most known details having been  
24 ascertained through unapproved leaks from  
25 stakeholders unquote. And it goes on from there

2 with equally devastating information regarding this  
3 agreement. I give my full support as do thousands  
4 of my colleagues to sign this resolution against  
5 the TPP. The president of declaring a municipality  
6 a TPP free zone has been established by Berkley and  
7 Las Angeles California, Madison, and Dane County  
8 Wisconsin. And I urge New York City to join this  
9 wisdom and continue to protect its people as well  
10 as the planet. To do otherwise would be contrary to  
11 all our country stands for. I am outraged that this  
12 so called trade agreement has been conceived and is  
13 seriously being considered. To sign it would be to  
14 negate democracy itself. Thank you again members of  
15 our New York City Council for standing up for our  
16 city, our nation, and for passing this resolution  
17 against the TPP. Thank you respectfully and in  
18 piece Katherine Scopic.

19 DAVID LEBERMAN: Good morning. My name  
20 is David Leberman and I'm here to read a letter  
21 from my, my daughter who is a 24 year old. So just  
22 because young people aren't here doesn't mean that  
23 they don't care. Dear city council members my name  
24 is Merissa Leberman-Klein and I live in Astoria  
25 Queens and I work in Manhattan. I support

2 resolution 576A making New York City a TPP-free  
3 zone and opposing the Fast Tracking of the  
4 transpacific partnership trade agreement, TTP, TPP.

5 The process of negotiating the TPP has not been  
6 transparent to the public or to law makers. The  
7 administration is attempting to negotiate this  
8 agreement to favor corporate interests and are  
9 hoping to use the bipartisan congressional trade  
10 priorities and accountabilities of 2015 to get  
11 congress to pass the agreement before the public  
12 can read it and give opinions to lawmakers. The  
13 Fast Tracking process that the president wants to  
14 use for the TPP would not give the agreement the  
15 scrutiny or due process that a trade agreement of  
16 this magnitude deserves. Congress would be unable  
17 to amend the TPP and would only be able to provide  
18 oversight after the TPP is completed making it more  
19 difficult to protect consumers and municipalities  
20 from any problematic and pro corporate provisions.  
21 Additionally the fact that the administration has  
22 making Fast Tracking and TPP a priority while  
23 refusing to release the full terms of the  
24 negotiations even with congress should provide a  
25 red flag. If this agreement as is currently being

2 negotiated was truly good for the American people  
3 then why shroud it in secrecy rather than submit to  
4 the usual congressional and public scrutiny. Since  
5 we do not have the full contents of the TPP it is  
6 impossible for the public to make an informed  
7 judgment on it and therefore we, we must oppose it  
8 until we have been given the ability to pass such  
9 judgment. Perhaps the most worrisome piece of the  
10 TPP is the, is one of the parts that we do know  
11 about. The ability of international corporations to  
12 sue the federal government for damages of  
13 regulatory safeguards at any level; federal, city,  
14 state, do not guarantee them the ability the profit  
15 from their investments. This is inherently  
16 dangerous to a city such as New York that are  
17 trying to create regulatory environments that best  
18 serve the long term environment and economic health  
19 of their cities. If an international corporation  
20 believes that any local regulation has the  
21 potential to cut into their bottom line then they  
22 have the power to sue for damages. This has the  
23 potential to undermine any regulation meant to  
24 incentivize purchasing locally sourced products as  
25 well as clean air and water regulations. Does the

2 council really want to cripple itself from reviving  
3 local entrepreneurship and allowing its residents  
4 to breathe clean air and drink clean water? I  
5 cannot believe that it does. Therefore again, I  
6 again encourage you to support Resolution 576A.  
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank, thank you  
9 and thank your daughter. Thank you. Next panel.  
10 Eric Weltman, Ann Garvin, and Susan Metz.

11 [background comments]

12 SUSAN METZ: I'm Susan Metz. I'm a 72  
13 year old retired public high school teacher. And  
14 I'm speaking on behalf of the Park Slope Food Co-Op  
15 in Brooklyn. We have 16,400 members. We're a  
16 voluntary organization, self-organized, and  
17 autonomous. We make our own policy. And we heard  
18 about three years ago that there was a trade  
19 agreement in discussion that we didn't know  
20 anything about and we didn't know how it would  
21 impact us. So as per our mission statement which  
22 says we educate ourselves and each other we formed  
23 a group which is called the International Trade  
24 Education Squad and for the last two years we've  
25 been studying and holding meetings and we will

2 continue to do so in a very rigorous manner. And  
3 we're very pleased to be here and testify on behalf  
4 of consumers because this is a constituency that  
5 needs to be represented on many issues. And we're  
6 now in support of that submitting 17, 14 sheets of  
7 signatures that we gathered in two brief sessions  
8 outside of the co-op. And it was very easy to get  
9 people to sign to support the resolution and we  
10 thank you very much for initiating it and for  
11 bringing it to us for public testimony. Our basic  
12 issue is that we call on you in the city council to  
13 fulfil your responsibility to govern our city. So  
14 we want this pass. Because on issues like buy local  
15 and public purchasing, food labeling, resource  
16 extraction and transportation, drug prices,  
17 internet access, and many others we rely on you and  
18 our other legislatures in the state legislation,  
19 legislature, and in congress to govern us. We are  
20 not enthusiastic, as a matter of fact we're  
21 horrified at the thought of being governed by a  
22 treaty that was negotiated in secret. And one of  
23 the reasons why our constituted our squad is we're  
24 going to out the bloody thing and we're going to  
25 keep militantly working with trade justice and we

2 thank Cannon WBAI for getting the information out.  
3 We're going to work with Sierra Club, with public  
4 citizen, and we're not going to stop until we kill  
5 this thing. Thank you very much for the opportunity  
6 and really understand all of us that this is a long  
7 term struggle. I testified on Thursday in front of  
8 the trade representatives who are now working on  
9 the TTIP with Europe. So this is not the only one  
10 we have to fight. And this is not, even if we  
11 defeat FastTrack oh halah [phonetic] and we put an  
12 end to these two don't think that the corporate  
13 gonna [phonetic] stop with these ideas that they  
14 deserve to make world order in favor of their  
15 savage form of corporate capitalism, that we have  
16 to stick together and we will. Thank you very very  
17 much for all your efforts.

18 [applause]

19 ANN GARVIN: Hi, my name is Ann Garvin.  
20 I live in Brooklyn. I also belong to the Park Slope  
21 Food Co-Op. And I also work with the International  
22 Trade Education Squad, Squad at the Co-Op. Thank  
23 you so much for holding this hearing, listening to  
24 our voices. We urge the council to vote in favor of  
25 resolution 576 making New York City a TPP free zone



2 joining a growing number of cities like Seattle,  
3 Pittsburgh, and San Francisco which have already  
4 passed such legislation. First we are very  
5 concerned about the extreme secrecy in which these  
6 trade agreements the TT, TP and the TTIP have been  
7 conducted by trade representatives of the federal  
8 executive and 600 multinational corporations. We  
9 can't address the specifics other than what's been  
10 leaked and neither can our senators and congress  
11 people. The few legislatures who have been allowed  
12 to look at the text report having been searched  
13 upon entering and leaving a guarded vault to which  
14 they were admitted without their staff. And only  
15 after agreeing not to take notes or discuss what  
16 they saw with the press or the public. So we know  
17 that there has been no transparency, no democratic  
18 process so far. This secrecy alone means that the  
19 TPP must not now be subject to a bums rush through  
20 the congress in the form of FastTrack. It's a 29  
21 chapter document and our representatives need to  
22 have the time to read it, digest it, debate it, and  
23 hold public hearings like this one. There are many  
24 many sectors of civil society as you're hearing  
25 that are opposed to what we understand to be in

2 these treaties and we need the time and the access  
3 to make our views known. And then the congress  
4 needs an opportunity to amend the agreements and  
5 not be required to vote up or down on them.

6 Secondly as other people have discussed we know  
7 that these, these treaties include a very dangerous  
8 provision for an investor state dispute settlement  
9 process which was included in NAFTA and is being  
10 used by corporations to sue before secret corporate  
11 tribunals for infringing on a new right that has  
12 been created by these agreements. The right of  
13 corporations not only to current profits but to  
14 whatever the project to be their future profits. So  
15 expropriation has been redefined to include the  
16 infringement on these expected future profits. This  
17 new right in a massive end run around all normal  
18 democratic governance by legislation, regulation,  
19 and courts is given priority over the rights of  
20 governments to protect their citizens. And you've  
21 heard the examples that have taken place under  
22 NAFTA. New York is involved in a lot of  
23 international commerce. As residents, consumers,  
24 voters, and taxpayers it is important to us the  
25 elected representatives of the citizens of New York

2 City be able to legislate protections for our food  
3 supply, our environmental safety, our labor  
4 standards, and a myriad other aspects of our lives.  
5 In Brooklyn we are already experiencing the  
6 shrinking of public space, the loss of public  
7 hospitals, libraries, parks, and my community  
8 garden. It's important that the assets of the New  
9 York City budget not be vulnerable to even the cost  
10 of defending ourselves from lawsuits by  
11 multinational corporations not to mention the cost  
12 of paying any settlements. Please vote yes on  
13 Resolution 576. Thank you.

14 ERIC WELTMAN: Hi there. My name is Eric  
15 Weltman. I'm a senior organizer with Food and Water  
16 Watch and we're here to speak in support of  
17 resolution number 576. I want to thank the  
18 chairwoman as well as Council Member Rosenthal for  
19 championing this. Our mission is to protect our  
20 most vital resources. Food and Water watch is  
21 involved in efforts to stop the Port Ambrose LNG  
22 facility, to ban the misuse of antibiotics on  
23 factory farms. And we feel that our mission is, is  
24 potentially undermined by the TPP. I want to talk  
25 about specifically some food safety related issues

2 as well as fracking. The TPP would open up US  
3 supermarkets to a flood of imported fish from  
4 countries like Malaysia and Vietnam. They often use  
5 veterinary jobs and fungicides that are banned in  
6 the United States to raise fish and seafood in  
7 overcrowded ponds. Since the volume of imported  
8 fish would increase but the number of inspectors at  
9 the boarder would stay the same uninspected  
10 shipments of potentially unsafe fish could end up  
11 in grocery stores near you. The food and agri  
12 business industries even want to further weaken the  
13 already inadequate boarder oversight. These  
14 corporate interests have demanded a new TPP panel  
15 that can second guess boarder inspectors that find  
16 potential problems. They want inspectors to release  
17 potentially tainted foods into the food supply  
18 while awaiting test results instead of releasing  
19 suspect food shipments only after they have cleared  
20 laboratory tests. Trade deals like the TPP could  
21 also overturn or block common sense food labels to  
22 inform consumers of the ingredients contained in  
23 their food and where products come from. The US  
24 Country of Origin Labeling Laws for beef and pork  
25 for example have been under attack by Canada and

2 Mexico at an international trade tribunal since  
3 2008. FastTrack has specifically identified labels  
4 that identify genetically modified foods as illegal  
5 trade barriers that should be prohibited. Consumers  
6 have the right to know what they're eating and  
7 citizens across the country including here in New  
8 York are pushing for state laws to require the  
9 labels of foods containing GMO ingredients. As has  
10 been noted and when emphasized the TPP could  
11 amplify pressure to frack for natural gas here in  
12 the United States. The TPP would make it harder for  
13 communities to stand up to the oil and gas  
14 industry. The TPP would automatically approve  
15 natural gas exports to all the member countries,  
16 especially gas hungry Japan without the normal  
17 public interest review and approve process that is,  
18 approval process that is required for all exports  
19 except for nations that are members of the US trade  
20 agreement. This would make it easier to export more  
21 natural gas and increase the pressure to drill more  
22 fracked wells, lay more pipelines and build  
23 liquefied natural gas terminals. By exporting  
24 natural gas out of the United States domestic price  
25 would rise and there's also, has been noted that

2 the TPP could threaten our fracking ban here in New  
3 York. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Bradly  
5 Stephen Phelps, ...Sutter, and... [on mic] Adam  
6 Weissman and Alice Sutter. They couldn't hear me.

7 ADAM WEISSMAN: Okay great. Thank you.  
8 My name is Adam Weissman. I represent Trade Justice  
9 New York Metro. We are a coalition of over 51  
10 organizations, 50 organizations in the New York  
11 metropolitan area united in opposition to the, this  
12 model of unfair trade agreements. We represent  
13 environmental groups, human rights organizations,  
14 animal welfare groups, groups advocating for safe  
15 and health for food health and safety, for access  
16 to medicines. And we come together in opposition to  
17 these deals. And so we have been very dismayed in  
18 the last week to see that the president finding no  
19 support in his own party, finding no support among  
20 the grassroots that elected him has come out  
21 swinging against his own base. Within the last week  
22 he's compared us to Sarah Palin. He's personally  
23 attacked Elizabeth Warren. And he's essentially  
24 said that our concerns about these trade agreements  
25 are based on a lack of information, that we're ill

2 informed, ignorant, and, and effectively  
3 superstitious. So I wanted to speak a little bit to  
4 where the basis of our concerns is. Frankly by  
5 looking at some of our president's history on this  
6 issue. In 2007 President Obama was one of only two  
7 candidates in the democratic field who came out in  
8 support of the US Peru free trade agreement out of  
9 nine democrats running he was one of two who  
10 supported the US Peru FTA. That was a trade  
11 agreement that at the time groups like the  
12 Washington Office on Latin America and Public  
13 Citizens Global Trade Watch said would lead to  
14 increased violence and instability in the region.  
15 Sure enough after the implementation of that  
16 agreement in 2008 farmers were killed in an  
17 uprising against the trade agreement. In 2009 there  
18 was a massacre of indigenous people when President  
19 Garcia tried to use the trade agreement as pretext  
20 to confiscate indigenous land. That's now widely  
21 recurred to, referred to as the Amazon Tiedemann,  
22 the so-called Bagua Massacre. In 2011 another thing  
23 that we warned would happen as a result of this  
24 trade agreement came true when Peru superseded  
25 Columbia as the world's largest exporter of

2 cocaine. Again something that we warned would be a  
3 consequence of this agreement as farmers were  
4 pushed out of legitimate agriculture through  
5 imports and increased market access was created for  
6 drug smuggling. As a, as a candidate for president,  
7 as a candidate President Obama fighting, competing  
8 with Hillary Clinton said that he would oppose  
9 NAFTA. And in fact said that he would use the  
10 hammer of a threat to pull out of NAFTA if he was  
11 not able to effectively push towards renegotiation  
12 of the NAFTA nations. It was revealed during that  
13 period that one of his advisors Austan Goolsbee was  
14 in Canada telling the Canadian Government that this  
15 was merely campaign rhetoric and shouldn't be taken  
16 seriously. As a candidate President Obama expressed  
17 his opposition to the Panama, Columbia, and South  
18 Korea free trade agreements. The trade agreement  
19 with Columbia that he called unconscionable because  
20 Columbia has the worst human rights record in the  
21 western hemisphere... With South Korea, a country  
22 that the US International Trade Commission said  
23 would cost 147 thousand US jobs and, and with  
24 Panama, a country that is notorious for its banking  
25 secrecy rules that would be locked in by those



2 trade agreements. As president, President Obama  
3 pushed all of those trade agreements to a vote. Am  
4 I out of time? Okay... oh too bad. Can I wrap up?  
5 What's that? If I can wrap up yeah just, sorry.  
6 Sure. So now President Obama in an unprecedented  
7 way spent five years negotiating trade agreements  
8 without prior delegation of Authority to actually  
9 negotiate those trade agreements, is retroactively  
10 going to congress and telling congress that they  
11 can take control of an almost completed negotiation  
12 by granting him FastTrack authority, giving them no  
13 binding power over the substance of a nearly  
14 completed negotiation and we're somehow supposed to  
15 believe that that is going to set things right on a  
16 negotiation that's been carried out with 500 plus  
17 corporate advisors to a secret negotiation that the  
18 public civil society and for most of the  
19 negotiations members of congress have been locked  
20 out on. We are not paranoid. We are not  
21 superstitious. We are not Sarah Palin. We have  
22 every reason to be concerned about this trade  
23 agreement and the threat it poses to all of our  
24 lives, to our environment, to our jobs, to our  
25 democracy, to our internet freedom, and to our

2 health. And President Obama frankly should be  
3 ashamed of himself for, is, for these attacks on  
4 public advocate. And he, in conclusion he has, the  
5 Obama administration has largely created an  
6 AstroTurf organization called the Progressive  
7 Coalition for American jobs. Celeste Drake of the  
8 AFLCIO has commented that there already is a  
9 progressive coalition for American jobs, it's  
10 called the labor movement. And I would add that  
11 hopefully tomorrow we can add one more progressive  
12 coalition for American jobs which is the New York  
13 City Council. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. Next.

15 ALICE SUTTER: I'm Alice Sutter. And I'm  
16 in the New York City Metro Raging Grannies and I'm  
17 also part of the Northern Manhattan Neighbors for  
18 Peace and Justice.

19 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Are  
20 you going to sing?

21 ALICE SUTTER: I don't do solos. We sang  
22 already.

23 [laughter]

24 ALICE SUTTER: I'm glad you liked us  
25 though. We do have other songs. Okay.

2 [laughter]

3 ALICE SUTTER: Yes. So I'm going to  
4 speak for our organization North Manhattan  
5 Neighbors for Peace and Justice. We're in  
6 Washington Heights and I'm glad that our city  
7 council members have helped to sponsor this  
8 wonderful bill and thank the city council because  
9 it's really, it's unbelievable that we have to be  
10 here. I mean this is such a horrific piece of, I  
11 wouldn't even call it legislation, I'd call it a  
12 criminal act against the people of the world and  
13 the animals of the world. It's dreadful. And we're  
14 part of a 200 300 member organization in North  
15 Manhattan. We started in 2001. We're against the,  
16 against the wars. And we also stand for our  
17 community for immigrants' rights and for economic  
18 justice for a living wage and housing, many other  
19 issues. So I'm going to, I don't claim to be an  
20 expert but you don't have to be an expert to see  
21 how horrific these things are. I'll just mention a  
22 few things that affect our city to have the labor  
23 laws and jobs to be, be restraintive [phonetic]  
24 trade because they're pushing for a resolution  
25 process to challenge any new environmental law,

2 would be in the form of tribunals headed by the  
3 world bank, not the local court. Nothing in the  
4 tribunals would be made public except the rulings.  
5 This is terrifying. Democracy wouldn't be  
6 considered. Air, water, land, and wildlife and  
7 people are not considered. Small business is not  
8 considered. And the regulations are only for a  
9 multinational corporate elites. So it would make  
10 the rich and powerful more rich and powerful and  
11 hurt us. The banking reforms would be restraint of  
12 trade. Recent history showed what happened to  
13 American people when Wall Street is unregulated.  
14 Folks lose homes, bank accounts, jobs. Wall Street  
15 wants the TPP for even less financial regulations.  
16 World financial stability is not on their agenda.  
17 Terrifying. Generic drugs would be restraintive  
18 trade. One of the leaked documents is about the  
19 intellectual property. Some other people spoke to  
20 this. I'm also a nurse, a retired nurse  
21 practitioner and a nurse. And when I think of what  
22 they're doing to HIV AIDS there's a wonderful group  
23 called Global Health Gap and they've done so much  
24 to bring HIV mediations to the whole world and this  
25 would totally destroy this, would destroy so much

2 that so many people have worked so hard on. So  
3 there are patent proposals to extend the  
4 pharmaceutical patents beyond the 20 years, the  
5 Medicare medicine courts costs would skyrocket and  
6 the AIDS meds prices would become totally  
7 unaffordable. And then we have the by American  
8 would also be a restraintive aid. They would shift  
9 jobs anywhere and regulate democracy to keep it  
10 from spreading and the jobs would move away. The  
11 tax space moves away. So we wouldn't be able to  
12 have any money for anything else that we need to  
13 do. That's enough.

14 STEPHEN PHELPS: Thank you Council. I'm  
15 Reverend Stephen Phelps. I served as lead minister  
16 at the Riverside Church for several years. I'm a  
17 teaching elder in the presbyterian tradition and  
18 appreciate your time here this morning. I don't  
19 wish to add one more fact to the extraordinary  
20 litany that we've been hearing this morning. It's  
21 so important that we learn from all those who've  
22 been speaking but I want to bring a different  
23 context alive for us. Right behind you is the seal  
24 of the city of New York and it has the word city in  
25 Latin in it. It's the word 'Civitatis' which is

2 related to the word civilization. And civilization  
3 is really what we're talking about and a threat to  
4 civilization. From the time that civilization first  
5 formed and religions around it and within them laws  
6 the efforts of humans have been to restrain the  
7 excess of greedy men and women mostly men, greedy  
8 people who are powerful and seek to take more stuff  
9 to themselves and more force to themselves. And  
10 democracy and religion have been all about  
11 restraining this tendency of humans to seek for  
12 more and and more for themselves. We could call it  
13 an appetite of a creature to take whatever it can  
14 and democracy is that spirit that says no we will  
15 decide where the limits are. We will set those  
16 limits. I am so glad that you're considering this  
17 resolution 576A to say that not this city, we will  
18 not tolerate that democracy be continually eroded  
19 for the very moral substance that holds us together  
20 as a people frankly holds all the peoples together  
21 under civilizations that are still trying to form  
22 and, and show themselves as just. This TPP will so  
23 damage democracy and justice and unity. It could  
24 never come into being in democracy if we were a  
25 democracy. But democracy but democracy in America

2 is under threat. And so I encourage the council to  
3 see its action though it certainly hasn't the power  
4 to restrain the congress of the United States. But  
5 it has a moral power. You have a moral power. And I  
6 encourage you to lift that up an say no more to the  
7 destruction of democracy that is afoot in this  
8 country in every detention. Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Audrey Iszard,  
10 Sarah Swisher, and David Vassar.

11 AUDREY ISZARD: Good morning. My name is  
12 Audrey Iszard.. advocate for retirees and chair of  
13 the New York City Chapter of Reliance Retired  
14 American. I am speaking on behalf of not just  
15 myself but all of New York City members of the  
16 alliance but also the 4.3 million activists who  
17 belong to the alliance nationwide. I have been  
18 retired for 55 years. But I'm working harder now  
19 because there's something either in the water or  
20 something in the minds or whatever that they can't  
21 seem to do anything right these days. I come from a  
22 generation, I have four generations in each one of  
23 them on medication. So it costs money for these  
24 medications. I have a grandson who's 19 years old  
25 who's very active with basketball but he still has

2 to go to a doctor and get that prescription filled.  
3 And I just want to say that it's very hard now for  
4 parents to take care of children when they got to  
5 pay for their drugs, pay for the children's drugs,  
6 and for other things. Keeping our retirement secure  
7 means that we keep healthcare affordable for  
8 seniors. We also help people that have retired  
9 early because of medication or other problems. And  
10 prescription drugs in United States is already the  
11 highest in the world. That is why a lot of people  
12 are going to Canada to get their drugs because it  
13 costs too much here in New York City. My other  
14 thing is the TPP is bad for senior citizen. If you  
15 believe that we're going to stay on the sidelines  
16 for this fight you're wrong. It's time that we  
17 stand as one and take our congress, our country,  
18 and the world, and New York and say no. Thank you  
19 members of the committee for voting for resolution  
20 576A. This resolution will declare New York City a  
21 TPP free zone which urging congress to reject the  
22 FastTrack legislation would make getting TPP  
23 approval for fast eliminate. I'm also the executive  
24 vice president of DC 37 53 thousand members. And I  
25 want you to think about them. These are union



2 members that have worked in this city, that help  
3 run this city and now you want to stab them in the  
4 back. Thank you.

5 SARAH SWISHER: Hi I'm Sarah Swisher. I  
6 go by Sally. I am here as a representative of the,  
7 of the Big Apple Coffee Party which is a group of  
8 grassroots activists. It's, we're a nonpartisan,  
9 we're issue based. And the TPP is something that  
10 makes us absolutely crazy in terms of the  
11 destruction to our, our ability to have a  
12 democratic input into our government. I also want  
13 to speak as an individual here. I'm a, I'm a  
14 working member of the New York City economy. I'm a  
15 music editor and I would just in, in television and  
16 film production, And I would just like to say that  
17 next year I expect to make a million dollars out of  
18 that. Now I've never made that in the past but I  
19 think next year's going to be a very good year. And  
20 I want to say that if my job goes to another part  
21 of the world where somebody else could edit music  
22 in their garage and send it back over the internet  
23 to New York because, and, and is aided in this in  
24 the trade deal that is being put together here I  
25 would like to be able to sue President Obama and

2 Michal Froman the American Trade Representative and  
3 the congress and the International... the World Bank  
4 and GATT because of the damage to me that has been  
5 done by this treaty. But you know what there's no  
6 provision in the treaty for me to do that. There's  
7 only the provision for TransCanada to do that if we  
8 enact the, a ban on the XL pipeline. There's only  
9 the possibility for multinational corporations to  
10 sue our government so that we the taxpayers can  
11 pick up the tab. Please help us. Thank you.

12 DAVID VASSAR: Okay. I want to thank the  
13 city council for, for holding this hearing. This is  
14 fabulous to have this opportunity. My name's David  
15 Vassar. I'm, well several things, a long time 20  
16 year member of Transportation Alternatives and an  
17 activist. Want to thank the Council for recently,  
18 for many of its members got behind the notion of an  
19 increasing funding for Bill de Blasio's Vision Zero  
20 initiative and, and that's going to be fantastic.  
21 We're going to have a better city for it, a safer  
22 city for all of us and a healthier one. So I  
23 likewise ask you employ once again to support this  
24 resolution 576 A I believe it is. It's, you know  
25 it'd be easy to ramble. I don't have a prepared

2 script here but there are so many things wrong with  
3 TPP. An you know so many of you have articulated  
4 that already. I'll just try to focus on a couple  
5 things. I was able to bicycle to, to city hall  
6 today and that's one of the fabulous things about  
7 New York. I'm in better shape than I was 30 years  
8 ago when I, when I lived in the south because I can  
9 bicycle everywhere. This is becoming a great city  
10 for that. And I have to really urge members of the  
11 New York community and, and Americans everywhere  
12 really not only to support this resolution and  
13 resolutions like it in, in your own communities but  
14 also express your, your independence from and  
15 opposition to what the fossil fuel industries.. and  
16 say we need, we badly need by somehow boycotting  
17 their product one maybe one day a week. You know if  
18 you can get on a bicycle, walk, you know just, just  
19 forego a car you know one day of the week. They've  
20 really, they really feel like they've got us by the  
21 cojones. You know that's part of the problem here.  
22 I mean psychologically they, they've kind of just  
23 colonized the American, the American mindset I  
24 think. But the fracking industry is, is, is so  
25 dangerous for our future prospects, I'm also

2 speaking as a father of 15 year old kid who, who  
3 has learned that he can navigate this city,  
4 America's bicycling capital without turning an, an  
5 ignition switch and I think that's, that's great. I  
6 want him to be able to do this safely. When I cross  
7 the west side highway on Murray Street to, to get  
8 here it, it, you know I started having to really  
9 pay attention again. The other thing I wanted to,  
10 to really come out against is the tobacco industry.  
11 I mean I, sometimes I think even Wall Street smells  
12 fragrant compared to the tobacco industry. You know  
13 there, where, where I work at a local university of  
14 which I guess I want to identify I, the perverse,  
15 the provost [phonetic] recently saying look we've  
16 got to ban tobacco at our campus. I mean our  
17 students come away with a degree after four years  
18 that's fabulous but they take away a deeply...  
19 smoking habit you know shame on us okay. So TT, TPP  
20 would kind of kill my initiative to make my  
21 university smoke free which I want it to be. Thank  
22 you.

23 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you very  
24 much. I'm going to turn this over to Council Member  
25 Helen Rosenthal because I have three committees

2 meeting in a row and there's votes on all of them.  
3 That's why I had left before. So I have to go down  
4 now and vote on one of my committees. So I'm going  
5 to go down and Council Member Rosenthal will take  
6 over. And I want to thank all of you for being a  
7 great panel and also your behavior here. Thank you  
8 very much. It's a very emotional issue. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I just want  
10 to thank Council Member Koslowitz again for her  
11 tenacity and her willingness to hear this  
12 resolution. Next I'm calling Johnathan Reese,  
13 Freddie Castablanco, and JoeL Kupferman. Thank you.

14 JOHNATHAN REESE: Thank you very much  
15 for having this hearing. I'm Johnathan Reese. I'm  
16 also a member of the Big Apple Coffee Party and I'm  
17 proud to say that Helen is my council member. And  
18 thank you very much for bringing this important  
19 issue forward. So you've hear many many reasons for  
20 why the TPP is a bad treaty and Fast Track would,  
21 would, is, is a bad, is an undemocratic provision.  
22 My biggest concern, I mean there's so many reasons  
23 but my biggest concern is, is sovereignty and as  
24 we've heard not only will we give up national  
25 sovereignty but New York City would, would lose its

2 right to regulate its own, its own economy. Now  
3 proponents claim that there are jobs and as we've  
4 heard those, we should be very skeptical of those  
5 plans because they've been made before for many  
6 other trade treaties. But even if they were true my  
7 biggest question is well how many jobs would, would  
8 justify the preventent, permanent sacrifice of  
9 national sovereignty. So that's, that's all I have  
10 to say.

11 FREDDIE CASTABLANCO: Thank you so much.  
12 My name is Freddie Castablanco. I'm a small  
13 business owner. I used to work with democratic  
14 leaders in the past. I used to work with Main  
15 Street Alliance, a coalition... small business owners  
16 nationwide and Make the Road New York. We help to  
17 pass the healthcare reform. And I remember we  
18 supported healthcare reform with a public option.  
19 In New York City we supported basic days that  
20 benefit three millions citizens, New Yorkers. We  
21 the small business, businesses in New York have  
22 been undermined by the fair, unfair competition  
23 that allows big chain stores to... while their  
24 products are made overseas with the slave hands.  
25 Luckily the... is sponsored by the policies that

2 seeks, seek tax exemptions for developers and real  
3 estate corporations while subject part of the..  
4 investment on our communities to the creation of  
5 business improvement districts that require new  
6 property taxes rising our rents. At the national  
7 level the deficit in manufactured output driven by..  
8 entails the laws of diversity of local economies.  
9 Any local business laws in, is also the lost of our  
10 ability to generate better products that meet local  
11 demands for consumers increasingly, increasingly  
12 concerned about our environment and public health  
13 issues. We all know how important is the  
14 international commerce to generate jobs to keep  
15 prices under control or have access to good quality  
16 products. Competition is also important to keep our  
17 economy, economic diversity where companies of all  
18 size can try. However we also know that the so-  
19 called free trade is a way to go the deepest  
20 regulation of the market in favor of very a  
21 specific group of monopolistic interest. Now.. free  
22 trade agreements are.. for our manufacturing output.  
23 The Clinton administration promised that NAFTA will  
24 generate 200 thousand jobs between 1993 and 1995.  
25 And that during the second decade our trade balance

2 would be 12 billion dollars annually in favor of  
3 US. Now we know that we lost more than 700 thousand  
4 jobs mainly in our car industry and we have a  
5 negative commercial balance of 100 billion dollars  
6 with Mexico alone. Our manufacturing trade deficit  
7 is even worse with China and our trade deficit is  
8 more than 300 billions. In 2012 Obama  
9 administration estimate that the trade agreement  
10 with Korea would increase our exports in 11  
11 billions and would support 70 thousand American  
12 jobs, jobs from exports alone. In reality we lost  
13 40 thousand jobs with Korea and our exports have  
14 fallen 3.5 billions. On 2011 our deficit with Korea  
15 was 13 billions. On 2014 the commercial deficit  
16 with Korea was 22 billions. Through economic  
17 recovery from the bottom they want to reduce our  
18 income inequality depends on the small businesses  
19 competing on a more level play field. Let's all  
20 remember small businesses are more likely to  
21 develop American technologies than larger fields  
22 with 16 times more patents per employee than the  
23 largers, larger fields. It's small businesses  
24 account for 60 percent of new jobs creation. If TTP  
25 were approved local policies for a through economic



2 recovery will receive... international cost. If  
3 corporations consider that these might reduce the  
4 profits the litigation begins our communities will  
5 under my citizen's initiatives as those that seek  
6 to encourage the consumption of local products  
7 defend the democratization of...

8 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Excuse me. Can  
9 you please wrap up?

10 JOHNATHAN REESE: I will take one, ten  
11 seconds more. Advocate for the protection of water  
12 sources from fracking seek, and seek to rise wages,  
13 record products that that handful to the public  
14 health seek to control the skyrocketing rents...  
15 expansion of business improvement districts in our  
16 neighborhoods. Finally I, we wonder without public  
17 debate without public hearing with citizens and  
18 scientific experts an even worse without knowing  
19 exactly what they are voting for where is the  
20 legitimacy of our congress. Is this vote goes via  
21 FastTrack our dream for a better democracy the one  
22 that represents over 320 millions American citizens  
23 will die on the... of, of those representatives of  
24 600 corporations who wrote the TPT, TTP. Thank you.

2 JOEL KUPFERMAN this on? Joel Kupferman;  
3 National Lawyers Guild, Environmental Justice  
4 Committee, New York Environmental Law and Justice  
5 Project, New York City Safe Energy Coalition. It's  
6 a little ironic that the last time I was here was  
7 the city council had hearings on the New York City  
8 air code. And we were here to defend the citizen  
9 sue provision which basically enables citizens to  
10 sue when polluters violated the city air code and  
11 the city did not go after them. It was a little  
12 strange that, that bill was, was almost like snuck  
13 under until a lot of people objected to it. I also  
14 want to say that this is a job creation bill, the  
15 TPP. It's a job for lawyers, representing those  
16 corporations. There's a lot of money to be made and  
17 I think it's important to point out in terms of  
18 equity that 90 percent of the lawyers work for 10  
19 percent of the wealthiest people. So it's probably  
20 stacked the way the law's going to work. There's no  
21 private redress. I represent many many people and  
22 we've basically been thrown out of court. It's been  
23 too costly to represent people. I think it's also...  
24 put a human side on this is that, not, not just  
25 affects American jobs, it affects people around the

2 world. The first case under NAFTA was a case called  
3 metal clad. It had to do with two investors in St.  
4 Louis wanted to reopen a toxic dump site in Mexico.  
5 The mayor of that city, the de Blasio of that city  
6 said over my dead body because we have the highest  
7 rates of birth defects in Mexico from this dump and  
8 other chemical companies. A year later it's heard  
9 in a court and after court in Canada, in Vancouver  
10 Mexico loses, the little town loses and those  
11 investors were just thinking of investing in that  
12 got money. So with all this jobs and numbers  
13 whatever I think it's important to put back the  
14 human side of this. The other part in terms of  
15 hurting this city the people remember in the year  
16 2000 a few mosquitos came in and we got a little  
17 crazed and sprayed something called malathion which  
18 turned out to be in Julianne's handbook as a tool  
19 that terrorists use. People came to us to the law  
20 project to fight that. We kept on fighting. EPA  
21 didn't take it seriously. We pushed and DEC ended  
22 up giving a million dollar fine against the company  
23 that the city contracted to spray. Also the workers  
24 complained because they were given one mask to  
25 share on this 13 million dollar contract with

2 trucks that were spraying... and also we showed that  
3 the people in New York were sprayed with this  
4 stuff. Not the mosquitos, the people were sprayed.  
5 We protested when they went to hire the company  
6 again. The million dollar fine sent all the other  
7 exterminators out. We, we read the city contract  
8 provisions. It said if you have labor and  
9 environmental problems you could be denied. The  
10 city in its wisdom denied that contract. They ripped  
11 up an 18 million dollar contract for that company  
12 and end up hiring their own people to do the  
13 spraying. Okay. It took us seven years to fight in  
14 court to reach a settlement. With this NAFTA on  
15 steroids the city's not going to get the million  
16 dollar fine. The city's going to be fined a million  
17 dollars or more. It changes it completely. So I  
18 just want to say as, as a lawyer out there it's the  
19 cases that we do it's stacked against us. And also  
20 I want to talk about fines, one more thing I just  
21 want to say is that there are, lot of people do get  
22 fined. Last year there was 530 thousand ECB  
23 violations. That's the tribunal that hears all the  
24 environmental cases, parking cases, building  
25 violations, no heat, no all of those cases. That's

2 a lot. The city is owed a billion and a half,  
3 cannot be collecting those fines. So already we  
4 have corporations not paying that are on steroids  
5 already. So not only are they getting a free pass  
6 now they want to take a second bite at the apple.  
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. Next  
9 panel Char, Charles O., Tamara Velasquez, and Margo  
10 Shure. Is there anybody in the other room? I guess  
11 the other two left. Okay.

12 TAMARA VALESQUEZ: Okay. My name is  
13 Tamara. I am Columbian born and raised. My family  
14 immigrated here to the US and specifically here to  
15 the northeast region and to New York City for the  
16 opportunities provided by democracy and economic  
17 justice. I'm here today as a US citizen because a  
18 bill that is now before you is an example of what  
19 has already happened in Columbia. You may not be  
20 aware but since the United States Columbia free  
21 trade agreement went into effect in May 2012 there  
22 has been unprecedented exploitation of the land and  
23 severe abuses of economic justice in Columbia that  
24 has stifled the middle and working classes. The  
25 minimum wage has been dramatically lowered. And

2 farmers cannot make enough money to feed their  
3 families. TPP is being pushed through by corporate  
4 industry lobbyists who are members of the  
5 president's advisory committee on the issue. They  
6 represent sectors such as pharmaceuticals, clothing  
7 production, finance, petroleum, mining, and  
8 agriculture. TPT will explote, exploit the  
9 ecosystem in American and New York City's workers.  
10 I'm here because the bill has now arrived here  
11 locally in New York City and it is in your hands to  
12 declare New York City as a TPP free zone. What does  
13 that mean? It means that we're saying no to New  
14 York medicines becoming dramatically more expensive  
15 because pharmaceutical companies can't keep their  
16 patents and generic medicines cannot be produced.  
17 It means saying no to corporations holding federal  
18 state and city governments like yourselves hostage  
19 from making laws and disclosing information for the  
20 public interest. It means that we will be able to  
21 call our congressmen and hold them accountable for  
22 decisions that are being made about the world trade  
23 and the united states. Those decisions will not be  
24 made behind closed doors by extrajudicial  
25 tribunals. It means that New Yorkers jobs will stay

2 here instead of being outsourced to foreign  
3 companies. And it means that our hard won  
4 environmental protections, food safety standards,  
5 and local labor laws will not be overturned. New  
6 York City is the apple of the world's eye and the  
7 leader of world industry which means that we are  
8 looked as an example for economic justice and  
9 democratic public policy. Our city's economic  
10 diversity and transparency strengthens peoples'  
11 efforts and desire to work more, to give more of  
12 themselves to, to their work and create economic  
13 growth. We who are against TPP who can, who want  
14 economic growth for our country and especially for  
15 a city will continue to grow and strengthen  
16 ourselves despite the obstacles in our path. And we  
17 will continue to support our council members who  
18 oppose TPP.

19 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. Our  
20 last witness to testify Leann Drequeno [phonetic].  
21 You'll help me out. I know I killed it.

22 LEANDRA RECEN: Good morning. Thank you  
23 for Council Member to give the support to the...  
24 solution against TPP. Really I am impress...

2 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: State your name  
3 please for the record.

4 LEANDRA RECEN: My name is Leandra  
5 Recen. I am from representative... And I know, I, I  
6 am here because my country was this... basted with  
7 this trades agreement like Adam Weissman say about  
8 Peru. It's since long, long time ago I was involved  
9 in Bagu, Bagua Massacre. And I want to say  
10 something. Our, it's the corporate... I call it a  
11 multinational corporate... They are against the human  
12 being. And they say they are a terrorist also  
13 because when we mention terrorist we mention people  
14 who is attack our people. In this case... this  
15 multinationals attack and I ask myself what is...  
16 what is the... home security... they, they make legally  
17 something, illegally loans against us. How is a,  
18 how is the, its impact in our air. For me the... or  
19 the TPP or the TPP... agreements. Now the  
20 transpacific partnership was include my country  
21 Peru. And this transatlantic from... all, all those  
22 trade agreements after NAFTA... we have the results  
23 displacements for everywhere. No jobs. This is the  
24 things that I, I am writing me telling what's I was  
25 listen. I couldn't be another time at the press



2 conference. Displacing pushing people outside from  
3 the place that they live. Like now in my country,  
4 right now and got a keep, they are facing against  
5 these trait people agriculture who are fighting  
6 against the mining company. The people who, the  
7 farmers who are taking care for they lands but they  
8 takes to a, a trade agreements. They poisoning our  
9 water. They poison our environmental. They, they  
10 breed destructions. You, you, you are, you see the,  
11 what the Sandies, Hurricane Sandy was doing here at  
12 New York New Jersey. That's was a destruction just  
13 a little bit not like in our country was  
14 continuously doing year by year. People who lives  
15 in our Amazonic place, people who never have  
16 contact with a human being assume they cut the  
17 trees and they don't, they don't have a place to  
18 find the food and they was... have contact because  
19 they don't... like us. And this is, they bring  
20 destruction, debt, slavery, low salary, no  
21 benefits, cutting jobs, killing our agriculture  
22 like I mentioned... on all those place in my country  
23 they have, they have mining. It's against the  
24 farmers because the farmers use the water to, to  
25 have their food. They, they taking our, away our

2 own resource, like our ancestors we have medicine  
3 not... medicine... cure, who cure sickness that we, the  
4 scientist is looking for, we have it but they, with  
5 this trade agreement they're going to have the  
6 power to have the intellectual power to, to have  
7 all those kind of medicines and is going to be  
8 against us. And on one thing I see in the documents  
9 about that I see, they, after they going to sign it  
10 it's going to be, to be in the... after four years.  
11 How come you are going to... this kind of  
12 monstrosity. Because like a, a lady said it's able,  
13 it's something is caress. We think... is our kids,  
14 maybe us we are going to... [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: You're going to  
16 have to wrap up.

17 LEANDRA RECEN: The one thing I, the  
18 last thing I going to say is bring... in our country  
19 like in Mexico is a dangerous place and my country  
20 is turned like a Mexico also. That's why I say. And  
21 thank you for all your council members to show up  
22 and say no to Transpacific, no to transpacific and  
23 no to FastTrack. I'm sorry I'm emotional because  
24 this is the first time that I hear from the New  
25 York City Council Member was doing this I was

2 expecting. I'm going to say this for you... Thank you  
3 so much.

4 [applause]

5 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Council Member  
6 Rosenthal would like to say a few words.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you  
8 Council Member Koslowitz. I want to thank you. I  
9 want to thank you committee staff, to Carlos  
10 Edwardo-Abato and to Israel Martinez  
11 congratulations by the way. And also to Mitchell  
12 Schwartz who was the initial author of the  
13 resolution. I really want to thank them for their  
14 hard work bringing this to fruition. Your testimony  
15 today was astounding. Over 26 of you representing  
16 yourselves, hundreds of thousands of other  
17 individuals testified today standing up for the  
18 right thing. You, if, if congress and the president  
19 would just listen to you they wouldn't sign TPP.  
20 Thank you so much for your time today.

21 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. And I  
22 want to echo the same words. We'll be voting  
23 tomorrow on this resolution. And I hope Washington  
24 hears us loud and clearly. This meeting's  
25 adjourned.

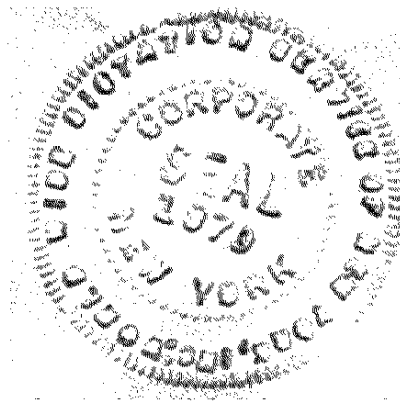
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[gavel]

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 April 05, 2015