Resolution Regarding Trans-Pacific Partnership “Free Trade” Agreement

WHEREAS the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a “free trade” agreement currently being negotiated, but negotiators have already agreed to many radical terms granting expansive new rights and privileges for foreign investors and their private corporate enforcement through extra-judicial “investor-state” tribunals; and

WHEREAS 600 official U.S. corporate advisors have had access to TPP texts and have a special role in advising U.S. negotiators, but the public, press and elected officials are being kept in the dark, with only a leaked document providing any access at all, and only to one of the proposed agreement’s chapters; and

WHEREAS the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the model for TPP, has resulted in economic, environmental and cultural damage throughout the North American continent: there are fewer jobs, more struggling family farms, less stable food systems, weaker consumer safety measures, increased social inequality, decreased access to affordable medicine, and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS the TPP will expand similar trade and investment provisions throughout the Pacific Rim and is designed to expand to other areas of the world, making this the last chance to stop the complete globalization of our economy and loss of national sovereignty; and

WHEREAS according to the Congressional Research Service it appears that the agreement will be used to forward troubling intellectual property rules; and

WHEREAS the agreement is being negotiated with the expectation that it will be considered under Trade Promotion Authority (TPA or “Fast Track”), subject only to a yes or no vote by Congress without any amendments; and

WHEREAS representatives of Labor, environmental, indigenous, family farm, and other social justice movements throughout North America are mobilizing to oppose further secret negotiations, to oppose fast-tracking of the Congressional vote on it, and to oppose the agreement as currently understood; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats call upon members of Congress to reject “Fast Track” authority for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and to pursue their Constitutional obligation of providing oversight on our trade policies. They should amend the TPP as necessary to protect the American people, especially working families, to preserve our environment and to ensure American sovereignty to deal with important social, economic and environmental issues within our own borders, even though it requires returning to the negotiating table.