

Terraza 7 שיתף/שיתפה את הפוסט של Freddy Castiblanco · 6 מאי

TPP and Small Business

הצג/הציגי תרגום



New York City Council - ב-Freddy Castiblanco

I want to share with you my remarks on TPP during a NYC council hearing:

Queens, New York
April 27th, 2015
Hearing on Resolution # 576

Dear New York City Council Members,

We, the small businesses in New York, are being undermined by the unfair competition that allows big chain stores to brutally expand, while their products are made overseas by enslaved labor. Locally, this trend is fostered by policies that seek tax exemptions for developers and real estate corporations, channeling part of the investment needed in our communities to the creation of Business Improvement Districts, which in turn require new property taxes that result in higher rents.

At the national level, the deficit in manufacturing production driven by free trade agreements, entails a loss of diversity in local economies. Any local business loss is also the loss of our ability to generate better products that meet local demands for consumers increasingly concerned with our environment and public health issues.

We all know how important international commerce is for generating jobs, keeping prices under control, and having access to good quality products. Competition is also important for maintaining our economic diversity in which companies of all sizes can thrive. However, we also know that so-called "FREE TRADE" is also a tricky name for the deepest type of regulation of the market in favor of highly monopolistic interests.

It has become very clear that Free Trade Agreements are detrimental to our industrial production. The Clinton administration promised that NAFTA would generate 200,000 jobs between 1993 and 1995, and that it would result in a 12 billion dollar annual trade surplus in the following decade, but quite to the contrary of these promises we actually lost more than 700,000 jobs, mainly in the automobile industry, and currently have a negative trade balance of 100 billion dollars in our dealings with Mexico alone.

The story is even worse with respect to Asia, since our manufacturing trade deficit with China alone now amounts to more than 300 billion dollars. Furthermore, in 2012 the Obama administration estimated that the trade agreement with Korea would increase our exports by 11 billion dollars and would support 70,000 American jobs. In reality, however, we lost 40,000 jobs to Korea and our exports have fallen by 3.5 billion dollars. Our trade deficit with Korea, which was 13 billion dollars at that time, had grown to 22 billion dollars by 2014.

A true economic recovery, from the bottom up, one that actually reduces our income inequality, depends on the ability of small businesses to compete on a really level playing field. Let's all remember: small businesses are more likely to develop emerging technologies than larger firms are, and they actually register sixteen times more patents per employee than larger firms do. Small businesses also account for 60% of the creation of new jobs.

If TPP is approved, local policies for a true economic recovery would be besieged by lawsuits in international courts if corporations think that such policies might reduce their profits. Litigation against our communities would undermine citizen initiatives such as those encouraging the consumption of local products, democratizing credit, protecting water resources against fracking, improving wages, recalling harmful products, controlling skyrocketing rents, and limiting the expansion of Business Improvement Districts in our neighborhoods.

Finally, we wonder how without public debate, without public hearings with citizens and scientific experts and, even worse, without our representatives knowing exactly what they are voting for, our Congress can legislate for us legitimately?

If this vote goes through via fast track, our dream of a better democracy, one that truly represents over 320 million American citizens, will die on the desk of those representatives of the 600 corporations who wrote the TPP.

Freddy Castiblanco
Small Business Owner of Terraza 7
Queens New York
Member Polo Democrático NY

הצג/הציגי תרגום

אהבתי · הגב/הגיבי

תגובות מובילות · ארמיס Maria E Murichi, Jenny Kastigo, Ernesto Alamilla ו-76 אחרים אוהבים את זה.

Alia Prod Obama, are you listening? We do not support TPP!!!
הצג/הציגי תרגום
15:27 ב-11 מאי · 1

Celeste Balducci Excellent and right on the money!
הצג/הציגי תרגום
09:24 ב-10 מאי · 1