

HOUSE No. 2154

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brendan P. Crighton

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions to urge the Congress of the United States to reject the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 2154

By Mr. Crighton of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by resolution, House, No. 2154) of Brendan P. Crighton, Thomas M. McGee and Sean Garballey for the adoption of resolutions memorializing the Congress of the United States to reject the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement. Export Development.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3133 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**
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Resolutions to urge the Congress of the United States to reject the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

1 Whereas, The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a proposed free trade agreement
2 currently being negotiated by twelve nations, including the United States. While the draft text
3 includes traditional free trade elements, the TPP moves exponentially beyond the realm of
4 removing or lessening import tariffs, export subsidies, and other barriers to the free exchange of
5 goods. In fact, only five of the twenty-nine released draft chapters pertain to these trade issues,
6 leaving the balance to non-trade matters that mar the standard of consumer protections, financial
7 regulations, and internet freedoms that Americans demand; and

8 Whereas, The trade agreement, as drafted, would adversely revise regulations across the
9 board and reduce access to some goods. TPP would retract numerous U.S. regulations and health
10 safeguards aimed at improving and protecting our environment for the 21st century. Moreover,

11 the trade agreement would relocate millions of American jobs in a turbulent economy to other
12 nations, decrease our access to affordable medicine, increase the volume of unsafe food and
13 goods in American markets, and roll back regulatory safeguards many nations, including the
14 United States, have adopted to restore financial stability; and

15 Whereas, The widely-publicized plan for certification would undermine Congress'
16 responsibility to conduct a full public review and approval and flies in the face of the long-
17 standing principle of democratic transparency. With the support of the president's administration,
18 senators have proposed using "fast-track" legislation that, if enacted, would limit debate on the
19 TPP, prevent amendments to the agreement, and require an up-or-down vote by both chambers
20 within ninety days. This plan would exacerbate Congress' historically low influence over the
21 language negotiated by the United States Trade Representative. Congress must not abdicate its
22 responsibility to ensure any approved agreement advances the best interests of the American
23 citizenry; now, therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United
25 States to reject the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement; and be it further

26 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United
27 States, the United States Trade Representative, the President of the United States Senate, the
28 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Massachusetts
29 congressional delegation.