

1 SJR18
2 164562-1
3 By Senator Waggoner
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 17-MAR-15

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8 RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE TRANS-PACIFIC
9 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TPP)

10
11 WHEREAS, the imposition of artificial barriers to
12 free and open trade are deterrents to American economic
13 interests; and

14 WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement
15 (TPP) is a 21st Century standard agreement that will create a
16 free trade partnership between the United States, New Zealand,
17 Chile, Singapore, Brunei, Australia, Vietnam, Mexico, Canada,
18 Japan, Malaysia, and Peru; and

19 WHEREAS, the TPP is structured to allow and, indeed,
20 encourage expansion to other likeminded partner nations; and

21 WHEREAS, the TPP is a comprehensive trade agreement
22 that includes liberalization on all tariff lines with
23 standards higher than the World Trade Organization (WTO) and
24 addresses issues such as competition with state owned
25 enterprises, intellectual property rights, government
26 procurement, e-commerce, and dispute settlement; and

1 WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific region accounts for
2 nearly 60 percent of world trade and 40 percent of global GDP;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, U.S. exports to Asia-Pacific increased by
5 63 percent in the last five years; and

6 WHEREAS, the TPP will boost exports from the United
7 States by up to \$25 billion annually, helping to shore up the
8 American domestic economy on the heels of a recession; and

9 WHEREAS, a 2008 University of Michigan study
10 estimates that an Asia-Pacific trade agreement would increase
11 real U.S. income by 1.2 percent; and

12 WHEREAS, successful conclusion of the TPP
13 negotiations will provide economically significant new market
14 access opportunities for America's workers, farmers, ranchers,
15 service providers, and small businesses; and

16 WHEREAS, the TPP will integrate the American economy
17 across the Pacific Rim, fully engaging the United States both
18 economically and politically across four continents; and

19 WHEREAS, the TPP will provide an historic
20 opportunity to improve the bilateral economic relationship
21 with Japan, our 4th largest trading partner, by eliminating
22 longstanding tariff and non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports of
23 goods and services; and

24 WHEREAS, the TPP will reduce the risk of the
25 exclusionary Asian trade bloc, the Regional Comprehensive
26 Economic Partnership; and

1 WHEREAS, the TPP will give the United States more
2 engagement and leadership in Asian economies; and

3 WHEREAS, the TPP will be an impetus for further
4 bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, to the benefit of
5 the United States, in the Asia-Pacific region; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Legislature of Alabama
8 urges Congress to support negotiations for a comprehensive,
9 high-standard, and ambitious Trans-Pacific Partnership
10 Agreement that will provide a platform for regional trade and
11 economic integration.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
13 resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States,
14 the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the U.S. Senate Finance
15 Committee and the U.S. House Ways & Means Committee, the U.S.
16 Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the
17 members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.