

A RESOLUTION

TO REQUEST THAT THE MICHIGAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF MICHIGAN, TO SUPPORT STRONG TRADE POLICY CURBING INDUSTRY SUBSIDIZATION AND CURRENCY MANIPULATION BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, AND TO TAKE SWIFT AND RESPONSIVE ACTIONS TO HALT OTHER UNLAWFUL BARRIERS TO FAIR AND FREE TRADE.

Whereas, Certain governments manipulate their currencies to ensure favorable exchange rates against the U.S. dollar, which makes exports to the U.S. unfairly cheap, while making U.S. exports to those same nations unfairly expensive; and

Whereas, Piracy of intellectual property creates an unfair competitive advantage, as intellectual pirates avoid research and development costs associated with production of critical technologies and designs, often with tacit approval of their governments. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports that these thefts cost U.S. businesses over \$250 billion a year and 750,000 jobs; and

Whereas, the United States trade deficit has been fluctuating between \$60 billion and \$70 billion per month, and surpassed \$780 billion in 2007; and

Whereas, Between 1989 and 2003, the U.S. trade deficit with China alone displaced production supporting 1.5 million jobs, according to the Economic Policy Institute, 75 percent of which were manufacturing jobs paying above average wages; and

Whereas, \$136 billion in wages are expected to shift from the U.S. to low-cost nations by 2015; these American jobs go to workers who are paid just pennies per hour in unsafe conditions, and who receive no medical or other benefits; and

Whereas, Oakland County's manufacturing sector, as well as suppliers and ancillary businesses, has lost over 34,000 jobs since 2001 due to unfair trade practices, which includes currency manipulation and to other unscrupulous measures; and

Whereas, manufacturing employs more than 70,955 people in Oakland County, accounting for 18.2 percent of the jobs in the county.

Now, Therefore, Be it resolved by the City of Troy Council:

That the City of Troy, on behalf of Michigan's citizens and business, by this resolution, encourage the United States Department of the Treasury to stake a strong position on behalf of fair trade. Free trade can only succeed if the rule of law is diligently applied; and

Be it Further Resolved

That the City of Troy urge citizens of Michigan to support strong trade policy and act in a manner that can best help preserve, protect and defend the vital manufacturing jobs of Michigan.

Louise E. Schilling, Mayor

Date

Date