

**Resolution Submitted by:**  
**Mary Lou Pavoggi, President**  
**American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO**  
**Phoenix Metro Area Local #93**

**Whereas:** The United States Postal Service (USPS) originates back to 1775 where Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General during the Second Continental Congress and the USPS is one of the few government agencies explicitly authorized by our Constitution.

**Whereas:** The Post Office is a non-profit organization mandated by Federal law, the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, that generates \$65 billion a year, is at the heart of a \$1.3 trillion mailing industry that employs over 7.5 million workers representing 7% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

**Whereas:** The USPS does not take one cent of taxpayer money and supports itself by selling stamps and postal products.

**Whereas:** The Postal Service delivers to over 150 million homes and businesses 6 days a week and is one of the most trusted government agencies.

**Whereas:** The Postal Service is the second largest employer in the US with more than 600,000 employees and one of the largest employers of veterans.

**Whereas:** The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006 mandated the USPS to prepay retiree health benefits 75 years in advance within a 10 year period at a cost of \$5.5 billion per year by 2016.

**Whereas:** The USPS Office of Inspector General ordered the Hay Group to audit the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) finding a \$75 billion surplus. The Postal Regulatory Commission employed the Segal Company to audit CSRS and FERS who found the pension funds to be overfunded \$50-\$55 billion.

**Whereas:** If not for this unwise law (PAEA), the postal service would of had a surplus of over \$600 million in 2013, \$1.4 billion in 2014, and \$1.265 billion so far in 2015.

**Whereas:** Congress caused the financial crisis in the post office and Congress must fix it.

**Whereas:** 28% of US households, representing 93 million people, do not have access to affordable financial products such as the ability to cash a check, transfer money or pay a bill at a reasonable fee driving them to rely on costly, predatory services such as check cashing stores and payday lenders, trapping many in a cycle of debt. The average worker using legal loan sharks pays an average \$2,400 per year in fees for banking services.

**Whereas:** Corporate privatizers seek to gain control over larger segments of postal operations to get their hands on the USPS \$65 billion of annual revenue to make a profit on the NOT FOR PROFIT Postal Service. There are bills in Congress to eliminate 100,000 jobs, eliminate Saturday delivery, close post offices and reduce open hours, phase out door-to-door delivery, threaten postal workers collective bargaining agreements, health benefits, retirement pensions and reduce service standards,

**Therefore, be it resolved:** The AZ AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions help mobilize the labor movement and our allies in the community to support: **H.Res. 54** that the U.S.P.S. should take all appropriate measures to restore mail delivery service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012; and **H.Res. 12** that the USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service; and **S. 1742** The Rural Postal Act of 2015 that would improve mail service by restoring stronger service standards and place a two-year moratorium on the closure of additional mail processing plants. It also would make the requirement for six-day mail delivery permanent.

**Therefore, be it further resolved:** The Postal Service should follow the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) recommendation and provide basic financial services to the 93 million Americans who have limited access to bank services.

**Amended to include:** **H. Res. 28** that the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery to all business and residential customers.

# **Arizona AFL-CIO Resolution Opposing Extension of Disastrous Trade Policies October 1, 2015**

**WHEREAS:**

U.S. trade deals for the past 25 years have been corporate-driven, incorporating rules that skew benefits to economic elites while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies;

**WHEREAS:**

The growing trade deficits, driven by the North American Free Trade Agreement, China's accession to the World Trade Organization, and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, have displaced 700,000 jobs and 3.2 million jobs, and 75,000 jobs respectively;

**WHEREAS:**

U.S. employment in manufacturing dropped by 5 million from 2000 to 2015;

**WHEREAS:**

The Arizona unemployment rate is 6.3%;

**WHEREAS:**

The Arizona poverty rate is 19%, which requires the expenditure of limited public funds to assist families in crisis;

**WHEREAS:**

Jobs lost due to trade devastate families and entire communities and can permanently reduce lifetime earnings for hundreds of thousands of workers;

**WHEREAS:**

The long decline of the American manufacturing base—exacerbated by bad trade policies that reward outsourcing—has undermined our economic security and poses a direct threat to our national security;

**WHEREAS:**

The offshoring of manufacturing and service jobs deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues, jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of public servants as well as construction workers whose jobs depend upon infrastructure building, repair and maintenance;

**WHEREAS:**

Under NAFTA-style trade rules, the U.S. annual trade deficit has increased dramatically from 70 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to more than \$508 billion in 2014;

**WHEREAS:**

The disproportionate voice of powerful global corporations in the formation of U.S. "free trade" agreements has advanced an agenda that undermines the public interest and threatens democracy;

**WHEREAS:**

NAFTA and all but two of the U.S. trade deals that followed it include special legal rights for foreign investors, known as "investor-to-state dispute settlement" or ISDS, that allow foreign firms to bypass state and federal courts to challenge state and local laws, regulations, and administrative and judicial decisions in international tribunals;

**WHEREAS:**

Foreign investors already have used NAFTA's ISDS provisions to challenge decisions regarding local building permits, environmental regulations, state bans on toxic chemicals and decisions of state courts;

**WHEREAS:**

Climate change and environmental degradation threaten communities across the globe, and ISDS provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) may expose nations enacting policies to fight climate change to ISDS cases that undermine these efforts;

**WHEREAS:**

Promoting economic growth with equity in Arizona requires an approach that reforms the entire trade negotiation process to ensure that voices of workers, farmers, small businesses, families and communities are heard and their interests addressed;

**WHEREAS:**

The TPP has been negotiated in secret, effectively shutting state and local governments out of the process, limiting our ability to influence its rules to ensure the people of Arizona can participate in the benefits of trade;

**WHEREAS:**

Given the enactment of fast track trade negotiating authority, states, localities and their citizens will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings in the TPP since its text will not be made public until it is final and no longer can be improved; and

**WHEREAS:**

Repeating old mistakes in negotiating new trade agreements such as the TPP represents a missed opportunity to strengthen our economy, reduce income inequality and promote sustainable growth;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Arizona AFL-CIO calls upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to oppose the TPP and any similar trade deals if they fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past;

**AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:**

The Arizona AFL-CIO calls upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to support new trade deals such as the TPP only if they will:

- Protect and promote traditional state and local prerogatives and authority under our federal system, including by ensuring that states and localities will not be required to comply with certain commitments, including any restrictions on preferences for local, state, or U.S. goods or services, without prior informed consent of the legislature or local lawmaking body;
- Ensure balanced trade and address the excessive, job-killing U.S. trade deficit;
- Include enforceable rules against currency manipulation, which countries such as China and Japan have used to tilt the playing field in their favor;
- Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions that favor foreign companies over domestic ones and undermine public choices;
- Ensure that countries cannot undercut U.S. based producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and enforcement;
- Ensure that the U.S. will engage in robust enforcement of trade rules, including labor and environmental rules;
- Include strong rule of origin to promote economic growth and job creation in the U.S.;
- Promote high standards of protection for workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than promoting a race to the bottom; and
- Put the interests of people and the planet over the interests of private profit.