

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Bob Buster

SUBMITTAL DATE: August 23, 2012


SUBJECT: Trans-Pacific Partnership (Free Trade Agreement)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors directs:

- 1.) That the County Executive Officer advise and direct our Washington, D.C. representative to advocate with the Executive Office of the President, U.S Trade Representative, members of the House and Senate, and the United States Department of Commerce for the successful completion of negotiations
- 2.) That the county urge the administration and members of the senate and house to approve the inclusion of our top trading partner Canada in these negotiations.
- 3.) That the County Executive Officer, Assistant County Executive Officer-EDA, Managing Director-EDA, and or the County Commissioner of Foreign Trade activity monitor the progress of the Trans Pacific Partnership and when necessary advocate for its passage in Washington, D.C. and seek the support of our state legislature, and local jurisdictions for this important trade agreement

BACKGROUND:

The nations of Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States are currently negotiating the Trans Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership. This is a multi-lateral free trade agreement to liberalize trade between these nations. This process began in 2005. More than one dozen rounds of negotiations have occurred over the past seven years. The objectives were to eliminate 90 percent of tariffs between member countries and reduce all trade tariffs by 2015. This is a comprehensive agreement covering all the main pillars of free trade agreements the Board of Supervisors has supported in the past (South Korea, Columbia, Panama) including trade in goods, rules of origin, trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures for our ag industry, technical barriers, trade in services, intellectual property, government procurement, and competition policies. Our key trading partner Canada is currently listed as an "observer" and it is in the best interest of all parties to include Canada. It is also important that whenever possible these negotiations be as transparent as possible to serve the best interest of our nation.



Bob Buster
1st District Supervisor

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AGENDA NO.