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Mr Ronnie Cowan MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Cowan

## Trade Justice Scotland Coalition

I write to advise you that Inverclyde Council at its meeting on 30 November 2017 gave its support to the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition's ten principles on Just Trade, attached to this letter, and agreed a motion which reflects these principles.

The motion is as follows:

"The Council notes that:

- The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the trade deal between the EU and US, stalled at the beginning of 2017, due to widespread public and political concern on both sides of the Atlantic.
- The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), between the EU and Canada, despite similar concerns, was passed by the European Parliament in February 2017 and is now awaiting ratification by member states.
- CETA will allow corporations to use a new Investor Court System (ICS) which affords transnational companies rights over elected governments.
- The effects of trade deals like TTIP and CETA go well beyond traditional goals of trade agreements, encompassing a wide spectrum of public policies. These include the harmonisation of regulatory standards; opening markets in the service sector; and the opening up of public procurement markets.
- The current UK government has indicated that it plans to use TTIP and CETA as the basis for any new trade agreements that it negotiates after Brexit.
- In the last two years, ten local Scottish Councils passed motions opposing TTIP and CETA (Dundee, East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow, Inverness, Midlothian, North Ayrshire, Stirling and West Dunbartonshire), which demonstrates widespread concern amongst local authorities about the negative impacts of these kinds of trade deals.

This Council believes that:

- This new generation of trade deals represents a real threat to local democracy, affecting the freedom local authorities have in decision making, when these decisions affect the profits of multi-national companies.
- These trade deals could also negatively impact on local services, employment and suppliers, as power is transferred from local and national governments to international corporations.

- A different system of trade is needed, which honours obligations to human rights, workers' rights and climate change commitments.
- Trade deals should be used to help build a fairer society and protect the planet.

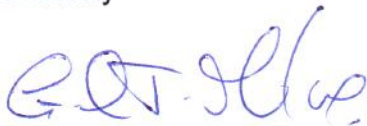
This Council therefore agrees:

- To endorse the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition's ten principles for Just Trade, as an alternative to trade deals like TTIP and CETA.
- That the Chief Executive should write to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution, and local MPs and MSPs to warn of the impact that a new generation of trade deals might have on Council decision making after Brexit, and to call for them to endorse the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition's principles for Just Trade.
- That the Chief Executive will write to COSLA to express concern about the impact that future trade deals, negotiated by the UK government after we leave the EU and modelled on TTIP and CETA, might have on local Council decision making, and ask them to raise these with the UK Government and Scottish Government on this Council's behalf."

I should be grateful if you would give consideration to the matters raised in the attached motion.

Please contact me at any time if you have any questions in this regard.

Yours sincerely



Gerard Malone  
Head of Legal & Property Services