

National Black Church Initiative

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For Immediate Release

National Black Church Initiative Strongly Opposes President Obama's Trade Agreement (TPP) It will eliminate jobs for Black people

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, strongly opposes President Obama's trade agreement known as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). This agreement, like other trade agreements, will undermine and, in most cases, eliminate black manufacturing jobs. Given the fact this economic recovery has been slow and coupled with low and moderate wages, we cannot support an agreement that will eventually eliminate tens of thousands of jobs from the black community. There is no other institution that understands acutely the multifaceted issues surrounding black unemployment other than the black church who deals with the implications on a daily basis.

Rev. Anthony Evans, NBCI President, states "The Black Church will not stand by during these desperate economic times against a backdrop of young, unarmed black males getting killed by rogue and racist police officers and a White House who does not care that a trade deal will adversely negatively affect black families. The black church will vigorously oppose this deal across the board. We urge our 15.7 million members to call their legislators to vote against this deal. We also urge the Black Caucus to finally stand with black, unemployed people and not with the expensive lobbyists who constantly undermines progress in the black community. "

The Obama administration does not and refuses to put in place any policies to close the enormous unemployment gap that has disproportionately affected black workers since the Reagan era. To date, Blacks still have the highest unemployment rate in the country at 14.8%. This trade deal will only increase these already devastating unemployment numbers.

According to a published report, “Black workers will suffer, not prosper, because previous deals caused them to lose hundreds of thousands of well-paying manufacturing jobs due to currency manipulation and trade deficits. A trade deficit occurs when a country’s imports exceed its exports. Currency manipulation is more complicated. It occurs when a trade-surplus country with a strong currency, like China, buys other countries’ currencies instead of purchasing exports from countries like the U.S.” To continue with this line of argument, we could be looking at an 18% black unemployment rate if this trade agreement unfolds like NAFTA.

President Clinton, for example, claimed NAFTA would create an export boom from Mexico that would create 200,000 jobs in two years and millions of jobs in five years, but 20 years later, trade deficits with Mexico eliminated 682,000 good jobs in the U.S. and 61 percent were in manufacturing,” Scott wrote in 2013 paper titled “NAFTA’s Legacy: Growing U.S. Trade Deficits Cost 682,000 jobs.”

NBCI urges all stakeholders who care about African American’s livelihood to oppose the TPP in every way possible.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI’s purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.