

Trump's bipartisan 'bold step' on TPP applauded

The Lowell Sun

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The Sun's Jan. 22 editorial ("Chance for progress at the White House") was fascinating. Before Donald Trump's first day of business in the White House, you already opined that naysayers wouldn't give him a chance. Well, this will surprise you: Five Democratic senators introduced legislation (Jan. 19) requiring Trump follow through on a campaign pledge to yank us out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership treaty. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey opposed TPP because it wasn't transparent, would disadvantage our workers, and favor multinational corporate interests over the American people and the environment.

On Tuesday, Trump terminated TPP. I applaud this bold step to follow through on a campaign pledge, despite it meaning that he sided with Democrats, instead of timidly following Republican leadership.

Can you imagine Marco Rubio breaking ranks like Trump just did for the sake of the public good or the environment? It's also a valiant maneuver because organizations like Green Peace and Sierra Club opposed TPP due to concerns about the environmental harm this agreement would pose.

If, as you say, Trump wants Congress to collaborate on major bipartisan legislation, then Trump should push Congress to work on energy efficiency and clean energy legislation. Many states have had greater job growth in green sectors over the last decade than in the rest of the economy.

To help Trump succeed on energy transitions, The Sun could urge the Massachusetts Legislature and governor to craft bipartisan clean energy legislation.

Right now congressional Republicans are too scared to touch it. But once Trump sees how well it works here, he could really make a legacy for himself: Another Nixon goes to China moment. JUDY WEISS

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