



## 25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC FOCUS

The next meeting of the 25th Legislative District Democrats will be held Monday, June 1 at the Puyallup Public Library at 7 pm.

This meeting will be our endorsement meeting for Fife and Puyallup City Council candidates. We will be welcoming the candidates who will speak to us and take questions. After the candidate presentations, we will vote on endorsements.

## Chair's Message

Ed Herde

Our June 1<sup>st</sup> General Membership meeting will be our candidate forum and endorsement meeting for City Council candidates in Fife and Puyallup. All the candidates for the five positions in Fife and the four positions in Puyallup that are up for election this year were invited to complete the 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District's endorsement questionnaire as well as to speak at this Monday's endorsement meeting. There are a total of 17 candidates running for these city council positions, however not all candidates will seek an endorsement from the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats.

Anyone who has been a paid member for at least 30 days as of the meeting is illegible to vote on endorsements. The candidate forum and endorsements for other races this year including School Boards, Port Commissioners, Fire Boards, and Pierce County Charter Review Commissioners will take place at our July 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. Anyone who is not a member presently but pays dues and joins at our June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be able to vote on endorsements at the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There are five current members of the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats that are running for elected office this year so come to the endorsement meetings and support your friends and fellow Democrats!

6-15

Here is a statement from the citizen watchdog group Public Citizen. The Banksters are still up to their old economy collapsing tricks, and the Justice Department is still not willing to treat them like criminals.

**Message from Plea Deal: Criminal Behavior Is Rampant on Wall Street**

May 20, 2015

***Statement of Robert Weissman, President, Public Citizen***

*Note: Today, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that five major banks have agreed to plead guilty to felony charges and pay criminal fines in connection with the foreign exchange market. Four agreed to plead guilty to conspiring to currency manipulation; a fifth will plead guilty to manipulating benchmark interest rates.*

There are two messages in today's plea deal: First, criminality is rampant on Wall Street. Second, the era of too-big-to-jail is alive and well. Even as they beat their chests announcing how tough they are, government regulators refuse to apply to the giant banks the same rules that apply to everyone else.

The illegal acts to which the five banks have admitted wrongdoing weren't accidents or technical violations. They were intentional violations of the law. They were conducted in concert with purported competitors. And they were hidden through use of code words.

Many of the five banks are repeat lawbreakers, and the Department of Justice deserves credit for revisiting a prior non-prosecution agreement, and now prosecuting prior crimes at the giant company UBS. But the lesson for the DOJ should be that it never should have entered into deferred and non-prosecution agreements in the first place, and it should cease using them for future corporate wrongdoing. They are simply escapes from criminal pleas with no demonstrable deterrent effect.

It is being reported that the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has granted a waiver to the banks from rules that would otherwise require the agency to revoke the banks' authority to undertake certain securities activities. If these reports are accurate, this action is disgraceful and intolerable. Congress must investigate this dereliction of duty at the agency.

Important questions remain about this plea deal: Will individual executives be prosecuted? And did the DOJ charge the parent companies in this case to avoid triggering potential sanctions with real and significant business consequences for the banks, including charter revocation hearings? The public deserves answers to these questions. In that information is some insight into whether the government continues to protect the megabanks – those colloquially labeled “too big to jail.”

What becomes clear is that regulators genuinely are afraid of enforcing the law when it comes to the megabanks. As a result, and notwithstanding today's announcement and others like it, these banks are not deterred from violating the law – indeed, they are literally not subject to the same standards as other banks and other companies. A democratic society cannot tolerate having banks above the law. There's a solution to this problem: break them up.

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 | Posted by Jim Hightower

“Don’t TPP on me!”

Like some Vaudeville shtick, Barack Obama keeps blathering that a huge flaw in his global trade scam doesn't exist – but then the flaw hits him in the face like a big cream pie.

The President's trade scam is called the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and it's a corporate boondoggle loaded with gotchas that hurt workers, consumers, our environment, and others. But its most damnable flaw is that it would allow foreign corporations to sue the US in corporate-run tribunals to make us change or even repeal any of our laws that might pinch their profits.

No, no, shouts Obama, "there is no chance, zero chance" of that happening. But – Splat! Splat! – reality has smacked him in the face with two cream pies. Using an earlier trade scam, the World Trade Organization has ruled not once, but twice this year that two US laws must be repealed or modified to satisfy the profit goals of corporations in Mexico and Canada. On May 12, a WTO trade tribunal ruled that our "dolphin-safe" tuna labeling law (which lets you and me know that the tuna we buy has not been fished with nets that trap and kill dolphins) violates the free-trade "right" of Mexican tuna fleets to use the cheaper, dolphin-slaughtering nets.

And on May 18, another WTO tribunal hurled a second cream pie. This one smacks "COOL," an American consumer law that requires country-of-origin-labeling on meat products, so your family and mine can know where the meat we buy comes from. Our Congress passed this sensible right-to-know law, our courts have upheld it, 92 percent of Americans support it – but a group of corporate lawyers on a WTO tribunal has overruled us.

Now Obama wants to saddle us with his TPP, creating more corporate kangaroo courts that'll have even greater power to usurp our sovereignty. To tell him "Don't TPP on me!" go to [www.TradeWatch.org](http://www.TradeWatch.org).

*"WTO Orders U.S. to Gut U.S. Consumer Country-of-Origin Meat Labeling Policy, Further Complicating Obama Fast Track Push by Spotlighting How Trade Pacts Can Undermine U.S. Consumer, Environmental Policies," [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org), May 18, 2015.*

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**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dues: Evergreen (Includes Senior, outside district, etc.) \$10 per member  
Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100. (Can be paid  
In installments.)**

**Please send dues to: 25<sup>th</sup> LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374 or pay by  
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**(Can be paid in installments)**