

ENVIRONMENT

Trans-Pacific Partnership

09-16-16

New research suggests that the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal could hinder the climate protection goals of all the countries involved. According to the "Climate Cost of Free Trade" report, the T-P-P deal between the U-S and 11 other countries would allow corporations to challenge climate-related policies, meaning that companies could sue a country if that corporation believes an environmental protection law hinders its ability to turn a profit. Report author Ben Lilliston with the Minnesota-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy says the T-P-P and other trade deals, including NAFTA, are in climate-change denial...

..."greenhouse gas emission." :15 (TPP 1)

Lilliston and other critics of the T-P-P say the deal should be scrapped in favor of a trade deal that's more in line with last year's Paris climate agreement. Supporters of the T-P-P, however, argue it would be a boon to U-S agriculture and manufacturing. Last Friday, India filed a World Trade Organization complaint against eight U-S states, including Minnesota, over policies such as the Made in Minnesota Solar Incentive Program. India argues these incentives put its own solar companies at global-trade disadvantage. And Lilliston believes if the T-P-P is passed, these trade disputes will only multiply...

..."renewable energy." :16 (TPP 2)

The report suggests that the U-S should propose a new trade deal that's less influenced by multinational corporations and financial firms and more open to public debate.

Lake Sallie Infested with Zebra Mussels

09/23/16

Zebra mussels have been discovered in one more Becker County Lake. Lake Sallie, just south of Detroit Lakes, is among four lakes that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of the aquatic invasive species. A DNR invasive species specialist confirmed the zebra mussels at three locations in Lake Sallie. The DNR says the initial report came from a lake property owner who spotted a half-inch zebra mussel on his dock. Lake Sallie is in the Pelican River Watershed District and downstream from Detroit Lake, where zebra mussels were confirmed earlier this summer.

The DNR's invasive species unit supervisor Heidi Wolf says new zebra mussel infestations are often discovered at the end of the boating and fishing season, when docks and lifts are being taken out of the water. Becker County AIS program coordinator Karl Koenig says it's important to carefully check for zebra mussels on those docks and lifts.

AIS_Koenig1 :31 hot water

The other three lakes with confirmed zebra mussel infestations include Lake Andrew in Douglas County, Lac qui Parle Lake, a reservoir on the Minnesota River that flows through portions of Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Swift Counties, and Big Birch Lake in Todd and Stearns Counties.

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Great Lakes President

09-24-16

Whether it's Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, a broad coalition is hoping that whoever takes the White House is a "Great Lakes president." At the 12th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference in Sandusky this week, advocates were calling on both campaigns to make protecting the Great Lakes a presidential priority. Groups including the Minnesota Environmental Partnership say Lake Superior is the most threatened of the five Great Lakes. Executive Director Steve Morse spoke at last year's event and this year, he's hoping the candidates will continue the work of previous presidents...

... "restoration work." :11

Great Lakes protection has received support from former President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, as well both Republicans and Democrats in Congress. Todd Ambs with the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition wants the next president to support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has spurred nearly three-thousand projects in the region over the past seven years.

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