

News from the Maine Legislature Citizen Trade Policy Commission

-- Media Advisory --

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 20th, 2007

Contact: Michael Johnson (207) 287-1528, Communications Director



Alan Tonelson

<u>Click here for more background on</u> <u>Alan Tonelson</u>

Alan Tonelson to Address the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission

AUGUSTA—State Senator Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, is pleased to announce that author Alan Tonelson will speak to the Citizen Trade Policy Commission on Tuesday, April 24, 11:30 a.m. about U.S. trade policy.

Alan Tonelson is a nationally-known writer and analyst on U.S. trade policy and the global economy. He is a Research Fellow with the U.S. Business and Industry Council's Educational Foundation. Tonelson will also speak at the University of Maine, Monday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. Room 105 D.P. Corbett Business Building.

The Citizens Trade Policy Commission was established by the Legislature in May of 2004 to assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements. The Commission consists of 17 voting members representing a broad spectrum of interested parties and 5 nonvoting members from five state governmental departments.

- Who: Author Alan Tonelson, CTPC
- What: Tonelson to address Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission
- When: Tuesday, April 24, 11:30 a.m.
- Where: Criminal Justice Committee Hearing Room Room 436, State House, Augusta

For Immediate Release, Contact: Senator Margaret Rotundo (207) 784-3259 or Rep. John Patrick (207) 364-7666

Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission Seeks an Active Role in Helping Maine Businesses Handle Border Issues

AUGUSTA – The Citizen Trade Policy Commission (Commission) announces that it will seek public input on how international trade agreements such as the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have impacted Maine businesses that conduct cross border operations with Canada at its public meeting to be held on November 21, 2005, at the Houlton Southside Middle School from 5 -8 PM in Houlton. "The Commission is aware that the NAFTA has resulted in border practices with Canada that are hurting Maine businesses." said Senator Margaret Rotundo. "We are looking to the business sector to help us understand the scope of border issues facing Maine's businesses so that the Commission can work with Maine's Congressional Delegation and the Office of the United States Trade Representative to address those issues."

The importance of such hearings was highlighted last year when the Commission at a similar public hearing received testimony about the improper application of NAFTA regarding the transport and set up of modular homes coming into Maine from Canada. As a result of that public hearing, the Commission and Maine's Congressional Delegation took action and helped address that issue and improve Maine's competitiveness with Canada. "I encourage anyone who has something to say about the flow of goods and services between Maine and Canada to come and present testimony at the public hearing in Houlton." Representative Patrick said. "The Commission is in a position to help with local border issues but we need those businesses who deal with border issues on a daily basis to alert us to problems that arise from the application of trade agreements."

The Houlton Southside Middle School is located at 65 South Street, Houlton, Maine. For more information on the venue visit the school on its webpage at www.sad29.k12.me.us. Those who cannot attend the meeting can send comments to the Commission by email at Curtis.Bentley@legislature.maine.gov.

The Citizens Trade Policy Commission was established by the Legislature in May of 2004 to assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements.

For Immediate Release, Contact: Senator Margaret Rotundo (207) 784-3259 or Rep. John Patrick (207) 364-7666

Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission Seeks to Give Maine a Prominent Voice in the Negotiations of International Trade Agreements

AUGUSTA – The Citizen Trade Policy Commission announces that it will seek public input on international trade agreements at a public meeting on February 3, 2005 at the Husson College Business Center from 7-9 PM in Bangor. "The Commission is in a unique position to take the concerns and ideas expressed by Maine's citizens at these public hearings and when appropriate, seek legislative action or to go directly to the United State's Trade Representative to ensure those concerns and ideas are taken into account when trade agreements are negotiated," said Senator Margaret Rotundo. "It is all too often the case that Maine's citizens are adversely affected by trade agreements that they had no idea were entered into by our federal government and are outraged when they are told that there is almost nothing the state legislature can do to make changes to that agreement," stated Representative John Patrick.

At the public hearing, the Commission will ask attendees to speak out about how international trade agreements have affected them and, in particular, the Commission hopes to receive comments on the Central America Free Trade Agreement ("CAFTA") currently being negotiated by United States with a number of Central American countries. "This trade agreement will affect how we do business in Maine and now is the perfect time for us to weigh into the negotiations to ensure Maine benefits from this agreement," Senator Rotundo stated. CAFTA is scheduled to be signed sometime in March of this year.

"We strongly encourage the public to attend the Bangor meeting because their input will help guide our work and help Maine become a more active player in upcoming international trade agreements." said Representative Patrick. For direction to the Husson College Business Center visit the college's website at www.husson.edu/directions/.

The Citizens Trade Policy Commission was established by the Legislature in May of 2004 to assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements. The Commission consists of 17 voting members representing a broad

spectrum of interested parties and 5 nonvoting members from five state governmental departments.

For Immediate Release, Contact: Senator Margaret Rotundo (207) 784-3259 or Rep. John Patrick (207) 364-7666

Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission Seeks to Give Maine a Prominent Voice in the Negotiations of International Trade Agreements

AUGUSTA – The Citizen Trade Policy Commission announces that it will seek public input on international trade agreements at a public meeting on April 19, 2005 at the University of Southern Maine in the Luther Bonney Auditorium from 7-10 PM in Portland. "The Commission is in a unique position to take the concerns and ideas expressed by Maine's citizens at these public hearings and when appropriate, seek legislative action or to go directly to the United State's Trade Representative or Maine's Congressional Delegation to ensure those concerns and ideas are taken into account when trade agreements are negotiated," said Senator Margaret Rotundo. "Trade agreements have the potential to reach almost every aspect of how we govern at a local and federal level. Given the discussion in Congress about the privatization of social security, now is the time to discuss how trade agreements will impact a privatized social security system," said Representative John Patrick.

At the public hearing, the Commission will ask attendees to speak out about their experiences, both positive and negative, regarding international trade agreements. In particular, the Commission hopes to receive comments on the Central America Free Trade Agreement ("CAFTA") and the Andean and Panamanian agreements currently being considered or negotiated by United States with a number of Central American countries. "If we work in a constructive and cooperative manner, we can bring forth a cohesive message that will have an impact on the final language of these trade agreements. We can take that message and weigh into the negotiation process to ensure Maine benefits from these agreements," Senator Rotundo stated. CAFTA may be voted on sometime this spring, and the Andean and Panamanian agreements are currently being negotiated.

"It is becoming clear to me that international trade agreements can be used to circumscribe a state's ability to govern its own affairs. However, international trade agreements, when properly worded, offer the promise of expanded markets and substantial economic benefit for businesses and consumers alike. A balance needs to be reached and we strongly encourage the public to attend the Portland meeting because that input will help guide our work and help Maine become a more active player in upcoming international trade agreements." said Representative Patrick. For directions to the University of Southern Maine visit the university's website at

<u>http://www.usm.maine.edu/generalinfo.htm</u> to locate the Luther Bonney Auditorium on campus go to <u>http://www.usm.maine.edu/mapportland.html</u>.

The Citizens Trade Policy Commission was established by the Legislature in May of 2004 to assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements. The Commission consists of 17 voting members representing a broad spectrum of interested parties and 5 nonvoting members from five state governmental departments.

Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission



Senator Margaret Rotundo, Co-Chair

Representative John Patrick, Co-Chair

November 6, 2006

For Immediate Release, Contact: Senator Margaret Rotundo (207) 784-3259 or Representative John Patrick (207) 364-7666

Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission to Hold Public Hearing on the Impact of International Trade Agreements on Northern Maine

AUGUSTA – The Citizen Trade Policy Commission, a nonpartisan commission, announces that it will seek public input on international trade agreements at a public meeting in Presque Isle on November 30, 2006, at City Hall starting at 6:00 PM. This hearing is the latest in a series of public hearings around the State held by the commission to get input from citizens about how international trade agreements are playing out on the local level. "The commission is eager to find out from the people of northern Maine how international trade agreements are impacting them. We are interested in learning about the positive and negative impacts of these agreements on northern Maine," said Lewiston State Senator Margaret Rotundo, co-chair of the Commission.

Despite the federal nature of international trade agreements the Commission stresses that states are not necessarily relegated to the sidelines and that public input can and does have an affect on what happens at the federal level. "Even though international trade agreements are solely within the jurisdiction of the federal government, that doesn't mean Maine has no say in the matter. Because of the Commission's work we now have an open dialogue with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and Maine's Congressional Delegation, and we are in the unique position of being able to take the concerns and ideas expressed by Maine's citizens and elevate those concerns to the federal level. We have done this in the past with positive results and we will certainly continue to do so in the future. Here at home we work closely with the Governor to speak with 'one voice' to federal officials and often that voice is a direct expression of what we hear from the public," remarked Senator Margaret Rotundo.

At the public hearing, the Commission will ask attendees to speak about their experiences, both positive and negative, regarding international trade agreements. The Commission welcomes all comments and hopes that participants will be able to provide specific examples about the local impact trade agreements are having on business, labor, healthcare, the environment and municipal

governance. "When properly worded, international trade agreements should help level the playing field in the global market place without sacrificing jobs and our ability to govern at home," said Rumford State Representative John Patrick, co-chair of the Commission. "I don't believe existing trade agreements are working out entirely the way the federal government has promised and many people are frustrated with the current process used to negotiate trade agreements.

The Commission has statutory authority to introduce legislation into the Maine State Legislature to address the impacts of trade agreements at the state level when appropriate. "We are continuing to look at Maine state laws to determine if there are ways to make changes to the law in a way that enhances the positive side and reduces the negative aspects of current trade agreements," said Representative Patrick. "I strongly encourage people to come to the public hearing and voice not only there concerns but possible solutions that may be implemented at the state level."

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Prior to the public hearing, the commission will hold a one-hour regular meeting at the same locality at 5:00PM to conduct other commission business. The public is welcome to attend the regular meeting and a meeting agenda and additional information about the commission can be found at the Commission's webpage: http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm

Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair Sen. Bruce Bryant Sen. Kevin L. Raye Rep. John L. Patrick, Chair Rep. Jeffery A. Gifford Rep. Sharon Anglin Treat

Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst Judy H. Gopaul



Perry Newman John Palmer Matt Schlobohm Paul Volckhausen Peter N. Connell Carla Dickstein Sarah Adams Bigney Elsie Flemings Cynthia Phinney Jane Aiudi Malcolm Burson Barbara VanBurgel Leslie Manning

STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

February 5, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, Contact: Senator Margaret Rotundo (207) 287-1515 or Representative John Patrick (207) 287-1400

Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission to Hold Public Hearing

AUGUSTA – The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission, , announces that it will seek public input on international trade agreements at a public hearing in South Portland, on February 21, 2008 at South Portland Community Center, 21 Nelson Road, So. Portland, ME. 04106, starting at 6:00 PM. This hearing is the latest in a series of public hearings around the State held by the commission to get input from citizens about how international trade agreements are impacting their lives. Experts in international trade, including U. S. Congressman Mike Michaud, will present their views on the proposed Colombia Free Trade Agreement at the start of the hearing. "This forum not only allows the Commission to get input from the public but also allows those affected by trade to have a direct conversation with policy makers at the state and federal level.," said Lewiston State Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair of the Commission.

While international trade agreements are negotiated at the federal level, public input can and does have an affect on what happens in Washington. "Even though the ability to enter into

international trade agreements rests solely with the federal government, that doesn't mean Maine doesn't have a voice in their creation. Because of the Commission's work we now have an open dialogue with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and Maine's Congressional Delegation, and we are in the unique position of being able to share the concerns and ideas expressed by Maine's citizens with them," said Representative John Patrick, House Chair of the Commission.

At the public hearing, the Commission will ask attendees to speak about their experiences, both positive and negative, regarding the impact of international trade agreements, and hopes that participants will be able to provide specific examples about the local benefits and down-sides of trade agreements on business, labor, healthcare, the environment and municipal governance. Written comments can be submitted as well.

"I applaud the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission for holding this important public forum on trade. These trade agreements have crippled our economy and devastated our manufacturing base. It's time we develop a new trade model that puts us back on a level playing field," Michaud said. "As co-chair of the House Trade Working Group, I am committed to fighting for fairer trade deals. I look forward to participating in this important dialogue on trade."

The Commission has recently begun to work with other New England Legislatures to increase awareness of the need for states to have input as trade agreements are negotiated.

The Citizens Trade Policy Commission is an non-partisan commission which was established by the Legislature in May of 2004 to assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements. The commission consists of 17 voting members representing a broad spectrum of interested parties and five nonvoting members from five state governmental departments.

Public Hearing Location:

South Portland Community Center 21 Nelson Road, So. Portland, ME 04106-6410. Phone No.: 207.767.7650.

For more information about the commission's work and for directions to the South Portland Community Center, please visit: <u>http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm</u>

Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair Sen. Bruce Bryant Sen. Kevin L. Raye Rep. John L. Patrick, Chair Rep. Jeffery A. Gifford Rep. Sharon Anglin Treat

Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst Linda Nickerson



Perry Newman John Palmer Matt Schlobohm Paul Volckhausen Peter N. Connell Carla Dickstein Sarah Adams Bigney Elsie Flemings Cynthia Phinney Jane Aiudi Malcolm Burson Barbara VanBurgel Leslie Manning

STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

November 20, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, Contact: Senator Margaret Rotundo (207) 287-1515 or Representative John Patrick (207) 287-1400

Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission to Hold Public Hearing

AUGUSTA – The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission announces that it will seek public input on international trade agreements at a public hearing on **December 4th, 2008** at Husson College, Libra Lecture Hall, Bangor beginning at **6:00 p.m**. This hearing is the latest in a series of public hearings around the State held by the commission to get input from citizens about how international trade agreements are impacting their lives.

While international trade agreements are negotiated at the federal level, public input can and does have an affect on what happens in Washington. "This forum not only allows the Commission to get input from the public but also allows those affected by trade to have a direct conversation with policy makers at the state and federal level," said Lewiston State Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair of the Commission. "Even though the ability to enter into international trade agreements rests solely with the federal government, that doesn't mean Maine doesn't have a voice in their creation. Because of the Commission's work we now have an open dialogue with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and Maine's Congressional Delegation, and we are in the unique position of being able to share the concerns and ideas expressed by Maine's citizens with them," said Representative John Patrick, House Chair of the Commission.

At the public hearing, the Commission will ask attendees to speak about their experiences, both positive and negative, regarding the impact of international trade agreements, and hopes that participants will be able to provide specific examples about the local benefits and down-sides of trade agreements on business, labor, healthcare, the environment and municipal governance. Written comments can be submitted as well. The Commission has begun to work with other New England Legislatures to increase awareness of the need for states to have input as trade agreements are negotiated.

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Public Hearing Location:

Husson College Libra Lecture Hall Bangor, Maine **Time:** 6:00 p.m. **Phone No.:** 207. 941-7000

For more information about the commission's work and for directions to Libra Electra Hall at Husson College, please visit: <u>http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm</u>

Sen. Roger Sherman, Chair Sen. Thomas Martin Jr. Sen. John Patrick Rep. Joyce Maker, Chair Rep. Bernard Ayotte Rep. Margaret Rotundo

Malcolm Burson Stephen Cole Michael Herz Michael Hiltz Connie Jones



Wade Merritt John Palmer Linda Pistner Harry Ricker Michael Roland Barbara VanBurgel Jay Wadleigh Joseph Woodbury

Danielle Fox, Legislative Analyst Jean Guzzetti, Legislative Analyst

STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

October 11, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission Seeking Public Input on International Trade

The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission will hold a public hearing at Washington County Community College in Calais on Thursday, November 3, The hearing will begin at 6pm and is expected to run until 9pm.

Maine businesses and employees are impacted by international trade. The public hearing on Thursday, November 3 will provide a forum for public testimony regarding the impacts of international trade and international trade agreements on Maine's markets and labor for agricultural goods, manufactured goods and services. The Commission is also seeking information on local experience with Trade Adjustment Assistance.

"International Trade is an important part of our economy and it is important that Maine citizens have the opportunity to voice their opinions and share their experiences with policy-makers. This is their opportunity to do just that. While international trade agreements are negotiated on the federal level, our Commission has a strong relationship with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) who is party to those agreements," said Representative Joyce Maker, one of the Chairs of the Commission.

"The Citizen Trade Policy Commission also stays in regular contact with Maine's congressional delegation and Maine's representative on the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee of the USTR, Rep. Sharon Treat. Through our connections, the Commission can share Maine citizens' concerns and ideas with those drafting the trade and other bilateral agreements. We hope the people of Maine will take advantage of this public hearing," added Senator Sherman who is also a Chair of the Commission.

The hearing is on Thursday, November 3, 2011 in Calais at 6pm. The hearing is open to the public and all are welcome to attend and testify.

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Public Hearing Location:

St. Croix Hall, Lecture Hall Washington County Community College One College Drive Calais, Maine 04619 Start Time – 6pm. Estimated End Time – 9pm

For more information, Contact: Senator Roger Sherman at (207) 532-7073 or Representative Joyce Maker at (207) 454 - 2327.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission Seeking Public Input on International Trade

The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission will hold a public hearing at the Skowhegan Community Center in Skowhegan on Wednesday, October 24th, 2012. The hearing will begin at 5:30pm and is expected to run until 8:00pm.

Maine businesses and employees are impacted by international trade. The public hearing on Wednesday, October 24th will provide a forum for public testimony regarding the impacts of international trade and international trade agreements on Maine's markets and labor for agricultural goods, manufactured goods and services.

Skowhegan was chosen as the location for the public hearing so the community would have an opportunity to testify before the Commission on the impact the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the trade agreement currently under negotiations by member countries, could have on New Balance and the surrounding communities.

The public hearing on Wednesday, October 24th in Skowhegan is open to the public and all are welcome to attend and testify. The Commission will also hold a meeting at the Skowhegan Community Center prior to the public hearing, which the public is also welcome to attend. meeting Details and agenda public can be found an on the at http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpolagnds.htm.

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Public Hearing Location:

Skowhegan Community Center 39 Poulin Drive Skowhegan, Maine 04976 Start Time – 5:30pm. Estimated End Time – 8:00pm

For more information about the meeting, contact: Danielle Fox or Alyson Mayo at (207) 287-1670.

Sen. Troy Jackson, Chair Sen. John Patrick Sen. Roger Sherman Rep. Sharon Treat, Chair Rep. Jeff McCabe Rep. Bernard Ayotte

Robert Umphrey Stephen Cole Michael Herz Dr. Joel Kase



John Palmer Linda Pistner Harry Ricker Jay Wadleigh

Ex-Officio Mike Karagiannes Wade Merritt Pamela Taylor

Staff: Lock Kiermaier

STATE OF MAINE Citizen Trade Policy Commission

<u>PRESS RELEASE:</u> <u>PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19TH BY</u> <u>THE CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION</u>

The Chairs of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC), Senator Troy Jackson and Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, are inviting members of the public to attend a Public Hearing which is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th at 5 PM in Room 214 of the Cross Office Building in Augusta.

The CTPC anticipates that the Public Hearing will broadly focus on two international trade treaties that are currently being negotiated. The TransPacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) involves at least 12 Pacific Rim nations and is anticipated to be finalized in 2014. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is currently being negotiated between the United States and member nations of the European Union and has an expedited timetable for final agreement in 2014. During recently scheduled meetings, the CTPC has devoted considerable time to discussing these two potential Free Trade Agreements with a focus on the use of tariffs on footwear in the TPP, the treatment of existing national tobacco health measures, the treatment of chemicals and the environment as they relate to public health and safety, the treatment of food safety issues and President Obama's current "fast track" proposal to have both treaties approved by Congress on a simple up or down vote.

In commenting upon the importance of the CTPC Public Hearing, CTPC Chair Senator Troy Jackson stated that "As Co-Chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission, I believe it is our responsibility to help inform members of the Maine public about the critical issues of trade policy that are currently being negotiated in several international trade treaties. From an equally critical perspective, it is crucial that the commission hears from the public about their perspective on these important issues. The upcoming public hearing provides the perfect opportunity for this mutual exchange of information and viewpoints." CTPC Chair Representative Sharon Anglin Treat also stated that "Trade policy is about a lot more than opening doors to export Maine goods- though that's very important. These treaties also include provisions that could change the rules about how Maine regulates toxics in consumer products, enforces tobacco prevention policies, or negotiates prescription drug rebates in Medicaid. Free trade agreements can bring job losses as well as gains, and the Commission is interested in hearing from the public about how they will be affected by pending agreements."

Another member of the CTPC, Stephen Cole, Energy & Environment Officer for CEI, a Maine based nonprofit economic development organization, emphasized that "International trade policy often represents the interests of multi-national corporations. The CTPC is a steadfast voice for the rights and needs of Maine companies and their workers." CTPC member Robert Umphrey, President of Northeast Packaging Company in Presque Isle, commented that "The role of the CTPC is highly critical at this time in addressing the interests of Maine in the ongoing TPP negotiations. Maine businesses and citizens should be cognizant of proposed tariff reductions that may affect Maine's manufacturers, with serious consequences as in the case of New Balance. In addition, Maine must be assured that the states exporting sectors such as services, manufacturing and agriculture have adequate market access provisions with all signatories. Maine's traditional manufacturers have not always fared well in prior trade agreements and the TPP should be closely examined to determine what is in the state's best interests."

The CTPC expects testimony from a number of prominent governmental, academic and private sources including Norah Todd, Legislative Director for Congressman Michael Michaud; Professor Robert Stumberg, Harrison Institute for Public Law, Georgetown University; William Waren, Trade Policy Analyst, Friends of the Earth, U.S.; Maine AFL-CIO; Maine Fair Trade Campaign; Alliance for American Manufacturing, the Environmental Health Strategy Center and welcomes other testimony from members of the public. More information about the Public Hearing can be obtained by e-mailing the CTPC at ctpc@legislature.maine.gov.

The CTPC was created by Maine State law in 2003 to "assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements." The CTPC is composed of 6 legislators, 7 members from the private sector and 5 representatives of different state agencies.

CONTACTS:

- Senator Troy Jackson, CTPC Chair: phone 436-0763
- Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, CTPC Chair: phone 242-8558
- Lock Kiermaier, CTPC Staff: phone 446-0651

Sen. Troy Jackson, Chair Sen. John Patrick Sen. Roger Sherman Rep. Sharon Treat, Chair Rep. Jeff McCabe Rep. Bernard Ayotte

Robert Umphrey Stephen Cole Michael Herz Dr. Joel Kase



John Palmer Linda Pistner Harry Ricker Jay Wadleigh

Ex-Officio Mike Karagiannes Wade Merritt Pamela Taylor

Staff: Lock Kiermaier

STATE OF MAINE Citizen Trade Policy Commission

PRESS RELEASE: <u>PUBLIC HEARING ON FOOD SAFETY AND AGRICULTURE TO BE HELD</u> <u>ON DECEMBER 12th BY</u> <u>THE CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION</u>

The Chairs of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC), Senator Troy Jackson and Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, are inviting members of the public to attend a public hearing which is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th from 4 PM to 8 PM at the UMS Hutchinson Center (Rt. 3) in Belfast.

The CTPC anticipates that the public hearing will broadly focus on the topics of food and seafood safety, specific impacts on Maine agriculture and such food policy issues such as buying local and GMO and other food labeling policies as they pertain to the TransPacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). The TPP involves at least 12 Pacific Rim nations and is anticipated to be finalized in 2014. During recently scheduled meetings, the CTPC has devoted considerable time to discussing this potential Free Trade Agreement with a focus on the treatment of food safety issues and President Obama's current "fast track" proposal to have this treaty be approved by Congress on a simple up or down vote.

In commenting upon the importance of the CTPC public hearing, CTPC Chair Senator Troy Jackson stated that "As Co-Chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission, I believe it is our responsibility to help inform members of the Maine public about the critical issues concerning food and seafood safety that are currently being negotiated in the TPP. From an equally critical perspective, it is crucial that the commission hears from the public about their perspective on these important issues. The upcoming public hearing provides the perfect opportunity for this mutual exchange of information and viewpoints."

CTPC Chair Representative Sharon Anglin Treat also stated that "The U.S. government is negotiating two sweeping trade agreements that, if completed as envisioned, will bind most of the countries in the world as well as US state and local governments. These agreements extend well beyond traditional trade topics and have implications for our policies on food safety, labeling of products, public health and much more. We invite the public to attend this hearing both to learn more about these trade agreements, and to offer testimony about how the TPPA and EU-US trade deals could affect Maine. Testimony on any issue is welcome, and we particularly seek information about how these treaties may affect Maine's seafood and agricultural businesses and our policies promoting locally-grown food."

Another member of the CTPC, Stephen Cole, Energy & Environment Officer for CEI, a Maine based nonprofit economic development organization, emphasized that "International trade policy often represents the interests of multi-national corporations. The CTPC is a steadfast voice for the rights and needs of Maine companies and their workers." CTPC member Robert Umphrey, President of Northeast Packaging Company in Presque Isle, commented that "The role of the CTPC is highly critical at this time in addressing the interests of Maine in the ongoing TPP negotiations. In addition, Maine must be assured that the states exporting sectors such as services, manufacturing and agriculture have adequate market access provisions with all signatories. Maine's traditional manufacturers have not always fared well in prior trade agreements and the TPP should be closely examined to determine what is in the state's best interests."

The CTPC expects testimony from a number of prominent governmental, academic and private sources including Maine Congresswoman Chellie Pingree; Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (Connecticut), the Maine Farm Bureau; the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Food & Water Watch and welcomes other testimony from members of the public. More information about the public hearing can be obtained by e-mailing the CTPC at ctpc@legislature.maine.gov.

The CTPC was created by Maine State law in 2003 to "assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements." The CTPC is composed of 6 legislators, 7 members from the private sector and 5 representatives of different state agencies.

CONTACTS:

- Senator Troy Jackson, CTPC Chair: phone 436-0763
- Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, CTPC Chair: phone 242-8558
- Lock Kiermaier, CTPC Staff: phone 446-0651

Sen. Troy Jackson, Chair Sen. John Patrick Sen. Roger Sherman Rep. Sharon Treat, Chair Rep. Jeff McCabe Rep. Bernard Ayotte

Robert Umphrey Stephen Cole Michael Herz Dr. Joel Kase



John Palmer Linda Pistner Harry Ricker Jay Wadleigh

Ex-Officio Mike Karagiannes Wade Merritt Pamela Taylor

Staff: Lock Kiermaier

STATE OF MAINE Citizen Trade Policy Commission

PRESS RELEASE:

Citizen Trade Policy Commission Advocates Views on Trade Pertaining to Agriculture, Pharmaceuticals and Dispute Resolution to the U.S. Trade Representative

On Monday, February 24, 2013, the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission wrote to the US Trade Representative to urge action to protect access to affordable medicines in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), and to assure that negotiations on a trade agreement with the European Union (Trans-Atlantic Trade & Investment Agreement or TTIP) will not override Maine's agricultural and local food policies. In addition, the state-authorized trade commission called for a period of public consultation and the public release of investor-state dispute settlement proposals, consistent with recent announcements of the European Union to increase transparency and consultation in ongoing EU-US trade negotiations.

The bipartisan trade commission voted unanimously to send three letters detailing these policy goals and requesting greater transparency and consultation by U.S. Trade negotiators with state governments and civil society.

Rep. Sharon Treat, co-chair of the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission, stated: "These actions by the Commission continue the longstanding engagement of Maine citizens, legislators, businesses and civil society with the USTR, seeking to insure that our international trade policies do not undermine our state's constitutionally guaranteed authority to pass laws and implement policies on a wide range of domestic issues, including access to affordable healthcare, procurement policies governing use of taxpayer dollars and promotion of local food and agricultural products. In addition, the Commission has acted to urge that sweeping provisions included in the investor protections in trade agreements are publicly vetted and that state policymakers are consulted before state policies are essentially preempted or overridden."

With respect to the investor-state system, the letter notes longstanding concerns with overbroad investor challenges and dispute settlement for a that bypass domestic courts. The letter states: "In concert with many U.S.-based organizations representing labor, health, consumers, family farms, the environment and small business interests, we write to urge you to join your counterparts from the European Union and embark upon a thorough, open, public consultation process to review the costs and benefits of the investor protection policies in the TTIP. The Commission specifically urges the USTR to release proposed text for public review and analysis and to

postpone negotiation of the investment chapter pending an opportunity for this public consultation." The letter further asserts, "A public consultation process in which American workers, families, communities, small businesses and civil society organizations have a real voice will be an important step toward creating more balanced investment policies that reflect the diverse needs and interests of real people and their communities, not simply large, global corporations."

The pharmaceutical letter focuses on the pricing and reimbursement text in the TPP (the socalled "healthcare transparency" annex) and the intellectual property provisions governing access to generic versions of biomedical products. The letter states: "We also wish to reiterate the longstanding position of the CTPC that the TPP's Intellectual Property Chapter must balance encouraging innovation with assuring affordability. The publicly reported USTR position pushing for a lengthy 12-year data exclusivity period for biologics is excessive and will significantly delay the development of generic versions of these pricey and life-saving medicines. The CTPC urges the USTR to modify its position to a more reasonable timeframe that will better protect the affordability of these important medicines"

With respect to pharmaceutical pricing, the Maine commission noted recent public reports that the USTR may be considering provisions similar to the Australia-US trade agreement, and stated that it "has never supported including pharmaceutical reimbursement provisions in any trade agreement, including AUSFTA, because these provisions reduce access to affordable medicines and insert policy into trade agreements that is best left to domestic regulation." The commission urged that if such a provision is included in the TPP it should be changed to address several concerns. The letter states:

"As noted above, however, even the AUSFTA provisions raise concerns. The CTPC strongly urges the inclusion of the following provisions in any healthcare reimbursement and transparency annex in the TPP to address these concerns:

1. The Agreed Principles should specifically include language specifying that healthcare and medicines affordability, safety and efficacy are recognized criteria in government reimbursement decisions governed by the Annex.

2. There should be no appeal of reimbursement decisions but instead a review based on domestic law and limited to beneficiaries.

3. If applicants are afforded an opportunity to provide comments during the reimbursement decision process, beneficiaries and the public should also be allowed to provide comments.

4. Internet posting and other provisions relating to dissemination of information about pharmaceuticals must be bound by a Party's domestic laws and regulations. In other words, the provisions of the TPP must respect domestic policies concerning direct-to-consumer advertising and off-label marketing.

5. The Annex must specifically state that a decision regarding the listing of a pharmaceutical product or setting a reimbursement price through a program covered by the Annex may not be challenged under the country-to-country dispute settlement nor under the investor-state dispute settlement provisions (ISDS) of the Chapter on Investments. Both of these changes are critical, and the greater concern lies with the possibility that investors could use the ISDS to challenge these domestic policy decisions."

Finally, the commission wrote to USTR urging that outreach to state governments seeking procurement commitments should be in consultation with the USTR's Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Council, and that any procurement provisions in the TTIP should protect state

initiatives promoting Maine farms and local products. The letter communicates the Commission's "concerns over possible measures in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) that could undermine our efforts to rebuild local food systems that are healthy, fair and sustainable, and the possibility that European Union officials are directly reaching out to state governments seeking their agreement to be bound by procurement provisions under consideration in the TTIP." The letter further states: "We are concerned that proposals being advanced in the TTIP negotiations could restrict or even eliminate criteria that favor local or regionally-grown foods as "localization" barriers to trade. We understand that the EU is pushing for procurement commitments in the trade agreement at all levels of government, including municipal, state and federal contracts. These commitments could open these publicly funded contracts to bids from EU firms, and could restrict the kinds of criteria that local communities deem important in making those decisions. We understand from public reports that the EU is insisting on procurement commitments that "go beyond" those already agreed to in the multilateral Government Procurement Agreement (GPA), which currently includes 37 U.S. states." The letter urges USTR to protect state procurement and other initiatives focused on promoting local food and agriculture in the EU agreement.

The CTPC was created by Maine State law in 2003 to "assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements." The CTPC is composed of 6 legislators, 7 members from the private sector and 5 representatives of different state agencies.

Sen. Troy Jackson, Chair Sen. John Patrick Sen. Roger Sherman Rep. Sharon Treat, Chair Rep. Jeff McCabe Rep. Bernard Ayotte

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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

PRESS RELEASE: PUBLIC HEARING ON TRADE POLICY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO MAINE AGRICULTURE TO BE HELD ON JUNE 26th BY THE CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION

June 19, 2014

The Chairs of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC), Senator Troy Jackson and Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, are inviting members of the public to attend a public hearing which is scheduled for Thursday, June 26th from 1 PM to 5 PM at Room 202, Cross Building in Augusta.

The public hearing will focus on the draft 2014 Assessment that the CTPC has commissioned to assess the potential impacts of the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) from the following perspectives :

- 1. Farm-to-School and other procurement provisions favoring local food and agriculture; and
- 2. Agricultural policies including direct and indirect subsidies relevant to Maine such as dairy price supports and tax policies favoring farming easements.

The CTPC has contracted with Ms. Karen Hansen-Kuhn, Director of International Strategies for the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and Mr. John Piotti, President of Maine Farmland Trust to conduct the 2014 Assessment. Ms. Hansen-Kuhn and Mr. Piotti will present a draft version of the 2014 Assessment at the public hearing and will be available during the hearing for discussion about the draft assessment with members of the CTPC and the public. A draft version of the 2014 Assessment will be posted on or around June 20th on the CTPC website:

http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm

In commenting upon the importance of the CTPC public hearing, CTPC Chair Senator Troy Jackson stated that "As Co-Chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission, I believe it is our responsibility to help inform members of the Maine public about the critical issues concerning agriculture that are currently being negotiated in the TTIP. From an equally critical perspective, it is crucial that the commission hears from the public about its perspective on these important issues. The upcoming public hearing provides the perfect opportunity for this mutual exchange of information and viewpoints."

CTPC Chair Representative Sharon Anglin Treat also stated that "The U.S. government is negotiating a sweeping comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union nations that, if completed as envisioned, will bind US state and local governments. This trade agreement, known as the TTIP, extends well beyond traditional trade topics and has implications for Maine's policies on agriculture, food procurement programs and agricultural subsidies such as milk pricing which are crucial to the future vitality of Maine's agricultural economy. We invite the public to attend this hearing to learn more about this trade agreement, to react to the 2014 Assessment which has been conducted by a joint effort of national and state experts on agricultural trade policy, and to offer testimony about how the TTIP trade deal could affect agriculture in Maine."

The CTPC expects testimony from a number of prominent governmental, academic and private sources and welcomes other testimony from members of the public. More information about the public hearing can be obtained by e-mailing the CTPC at ctpc@legislature.maine.gov.

The CTPC was created by Maine State law in 2003 to "assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements." The CTPC is composed of 6 legislators, 7 members from the private sector and 5 representatives of different state agencies.

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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

PRESS RELEASE: PUBLIC HEARING ON TRADE POLICY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO MAINE AGRICULTURE AND OTHER TRADE TOPICS TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2014 BY THE CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION AND THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC) will be holding a public hearing with the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at the University of Maine at Farmington at 6:30 PM in Room 101 of the Roberts Learning Center.

The primary focus of this public hearing is to gather public comment and testimony regarding agricultural trade topics that are important to Maine and in particular, that may be subject to the provisions of two trade agreements now under negotiation: the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). In addition, the CTPC welcomes testimony on other trade-related topics, including proposals for Trade Promotion Authority (known as "Fast Track") that are currently pending in Congress.

Earlier this year, the CTPC conducted its biennial assessment of trade impacts on Maine. For the 2104 Assessment, the CTPC contracted with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and the Maine Farmland Trust to produce an assessment which was titled "Maine Agriculture and Food Systems in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership". This document can be read in its entirety at the CTPC website:

http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/2014FinalAssessment.pdf

The 2104 Assessment focuses on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which is currently being negotiated between the United States and the member nations of the European Union (EU) and examines a number of agricultural issues that are being negotiated that could have a significant impact on the vitality of agriculture in Maine. These issues include:

- Standards regarding *food safety* that could be imposed on Maine that would supersede any state and municipal laws or regulations;
- Opening up *state and local procurement food-related programs* to bids from international companies and negatively impacting the support of Buy Local programs;
- The establishment of certain *Geographical Indications* which provide legal protections for products based on their place of origin, specific production techniques, and the reputation of quality for those goods. The CTPC is specifically seeking testimony concerning food products that are uniquely associated with Maine such as Maine Lobster and Wild Maine Blueberries, and whether we should advise the U.S. Trade Representative to include these or other products as protected Geographical Indications in the TTIP or other trade agreement;
- Provisions in the TTIP could disrupt *Federal Price Supports for Milk* and override the delicate balance currently achieved by the *Maine Dairy Stabilization program*.

Many of these issues are also relevant to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a trade agreement under negotiation among 12 Pacific Rim nations. Recent news reports have indicated that agreement on final TPP text may be imminent, and that this agreement could be sent to Congress for approval in 2015.

In commenting upon the importance of the CTPC public hearing, CTPC Chair Senator Troy Jackson stated that "As Co-Chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission, I believe it is our responsibility to help inform members of the Maine public about the critical issues concerning agriculture that are currently being negotiated in the TTIP. From an equally critical perspective, it is crucial that the commission hears from the public about its perspective on these important issues. The upcoming public hearing provides the perfect opportunity for this mutual exchange of information and viewpoints."

CTPC Chair Representative Sharon Anglin Treat also stated that "The U.S. government is negotiating two sweeping trade agreements, one with the European Union and one with Pacific Rim countries including Vietnam, Malaysia, and Japan. If completed as envisioned, these agreements will bind US state and local governments and could affect the viability of Maine's remaining shoe industry, the state's policies on agriculture, food procurement and milk pricing, the cost of prescription drugs, and even the effectiveness of Maine's policies designed to reduce youth smoking. We invite the public to attend this hearing to learn more about these trade agreements, to react to the 2014 Assessment which has been conducted by a joint effort of national and state experts on agricultural trade policy, and to offer testimony about trade policy in general."

The CTPC and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry expect testimony from a number of prominent governmental, academic and private sources and welcomes other testimony from members of the public. More information about the public hearing can be obtained by e-mailing the CTPC at ctpc@legislature.maine.gov.

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STATE OF MAINE Citizen Trade Policy Commission

PRESS RELEASE: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TRANSPACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND OTHER TRADE TOPICS TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 BY THE CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION

Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC) will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, September 24, 2015 in Room 208 of the Cross Office Building in Augusta, Me. from 1 to 3 PM.

The primary focus of this public hearing is to gather public comment and testimony regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) which is currently being negotiated by the U.S. and a number of other Pacific Rim nations. In addition, the CTPC welcomes testimony on other trade-related topics, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which is also currently being negotiated by the U.S. and member nations of the European Union.

In commenting upon the importance of the CTPC public hearing, CTPC Chair Senator Amy Volk stated that "As Co-Chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission, I believe it is vitally important for the commission to provide ample opportunity for Maine citizens to make public comments about free trade agreements like the TPP which will have a significant effect on Maine's economy and the manner in which trade between Maine businesses and foreign nations can be increased without sacrificing necessary safeguards regarding standards of public safety, health and governmental sovereignty."

CTPC Chair Representative Robert Saucier also stated that "The CTPC is intent on carrying through its mission to monitor the progress and content of the various free trade agreements like the TPP which are currently under negotiation and how these

trade agreements could potentially effect the State of Maine. The upcoming public hearing on September 24, 2015 will enable the commission to gather comments from members of the Maine public regarding their opinions on these crucial trade agreements."

The CTPC was created by Maine State law in 2003 to "assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements." The CTPC is composed of 6 legislators, 7 members from the private sector and 5 representatives of different state agencies.

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STATE OF MAINE Citizen Trade Policy Commission

PRESS RELEASE: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TRANSPACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TPP) TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2015 BY THE CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION

Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC) will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, December 10, 2015 in Room 105, Rangely Hall, 268 Sylvan Road, Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor, ME 04401. The primary focus of this public hearing is to gather public comment and testimony regarding the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) which has been negotiated by the U.S. and a number of other Pacific Rim nations. The proposed TPP has been submitted to Congress for a vote on approval which is likely to occur sometime in 2016.

In commenting upon the importance of the CTPC public hearing, CTPC Chair Senator Amy Volk stated that "The publication of the TPP text and its submission to Congress for approval provides a unique window of opportunity for careful review and public comment. The public hearing to be held by the CTPC on December 10th in Bangor is an even more direct opportunity for members of the Maine public to voice their opinions on the TPP."

CTPC Chair Representative Robert Saucier also stated that "The CTPC will be using the information and opinions gathered at the December 10th public hearing on the TPP to help inform its own eventual conclusions on the TPP. The CTPC plans to communicate the results of the public hearing to the Maine State Legislature and all members of Maine's congressional delegation".

To further facilitate the provision of pertinent information regarding the TPP to members of the Maine public, the CTPC has posted links on its website to several

relevant pieces of information and articles on the TPP including links to the complete TPP text:

http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm

The CTPC was created by Maine State law in 2003 to "assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements." The CTPC is composed of 6 legislators, 7 members from the private sector and 5 representatives of different state agencies.

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