

Sen. Rodney L. Whittemore, Chair
Sen. Lisa Keim
Sen. David Miramant
Rep. Craig Hickman, Chair
Rep. Stephen Stanley
Rep. Stacey Guerin

Christy Daggett
Sharon A. Treat



John Palmer
Linda Pistner
Ryan Hamden
Randy Levesque
Dr. Joel A. Kase

Ex-Officio
Wade Merritt
Pamela Megathlin
Christina S. Zabierek
Jeffrey Wiley

Staff:
Lock Kiermaier

STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

October 31, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
68 Sewall St, Room 507
Augusta, ME 04330

Re: NAFTA renegotiations

Dear Senator Collins:

As you know, the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission was established in 2003 by the Maine State Legislature to, *“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.”* [10 MRSA §11 (3)].

To accomplish its statutory responsibilities, the CTPC has met regularly in the intervening years to study and review the various Free Trade Agreements that have been negotiated or are in the process of being negotiated. To that end, we have taken an active role in communicating our concerns and viewpoints with you and other members of Maine's congressional delegation, the Governor, the Legislature and the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

Most recently, during our meeting on October 24, 2017, those CTPC members present expressed an interest in finding out from members of Maine's congressional delegation the extent to which each of you may have communicated your views on the current North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations to the USTR. To that end, we would appreciate it if you could send us copies of any recent communications you may have had with the USTR regarding your views on the ongoing NAFTA renegotiations. Commission members intend to use this information to help shape the commission's own stance on major policy issues which may include:

Citizen Trade Policy Commission
c/o Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
State House Station #13, Augusta, ME 04333-0013 Telephone: 207 287-1670
<http://www.maine.gov/legis/orla/citpol.htm>

- The degree to which the NAFTA renegotiations are transparent and accessible to the public and members of Congress?
- To what extent are negotiations seeking to extend the time period applicable to monopoly pricing of pharmaceutical products, or to impose additional criteria or procedures that could restrict the ability of public health programs including Medicaid and Medicare to negotiate cost-effective reimbursement rates for medicines?
- To what extent are controversial issues regarding trade in wood products between the United States and Canada being addressed in the renegotiations?
- To what extent are efforts being made in the renegotiations to achieve “regulatory harmonization” between the United States, Canada and Mexico? and
- Should NAFTA (and other free trade agreements) continue to include the Investor-State Dispute Resolution (ISDS) mechanism which is used to resolve trade disputes between investors and member nations?

Given the relatively expedited nature and timetable of the NAFTA renegotiations, the commission hopes to receive copies of any formal communication that you have had with the USTR on the NAFTA renegotiations as soon as possible. The CTPC intends to meet again in the very near future to review any such communications and arrive at any recommendations that the commission wishes to make regarding the various issues associated with the NAFTA renegotiations.

We look forward to your participation and welcome any comments or questions that you may have regarding this request. Please feel free to contact either of us or CTPC staff person Lock Kiermaier (phone: 207 446-0651) with any such comments or questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Rod Whittlemore, Chair



Representative Craig Hickman, Chair

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Sen. Lisa Keim
Sen. David Miramant
Rep. Craig Hickman, Chair
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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

October 31, 2017

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 3
Augusta, ME 04330

Re: NAFTA renegotiations

Dear Senator King:

As you know, the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission was established in 2003 by the Maine State Legislature to, *“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.”* [10 MRSA §11 (3)].

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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

October 31, 2017

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
United States House of Representatives
2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 304
Portland, ME 04101

Re: NAFTA renegotiations

Dear Representative Pingree:

As you know, the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission was established in 2003 by the Maine State Legislature to, *“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.”* [10 MRSA §11 (3)].

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State House Station #13, Augusta, ME 04333-0013 Telephone: 207 287-1670
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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

October 31, 2017

The Honorable Bruce Poliquin
United States House of Representatives
4 Union Plaza, Suite 7
Bangor, ME 04401

Re: NAFTA renegotiations

Dear Representative Poliquin:

As you know, the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission was established in 2003 by the Maine State Legislature to, *“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.”* [10 MRSA §11 (3)].

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