

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, January 21, 2005

State House, Room 127, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Sen. Kevin Raye, Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Rep. Roderick Carr, Dr. Robert Wiess, Liz Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Mary Ellen Johnston, Peter Connell, Paul Volckhausen, Jim Dusch, Mark Haggerty, Bjorn Claeson, Matt Schlobohm, Richard Coyle, Carla Dickstein, James Wilfong

Members absent: Absent: Rep. Deborah Hutton, Cynthia Phinney, Barbara Van Burgel

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

I. Introductions

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves and make introductory remarks. Paul Volckhausen informed the Commission that he will be going to El Salvador regarding organic farmers and trade issues and will report back to the Commission at its next meeting. He also requested the Commission send an introductory letter with him to share with interested parties in El Salvador.

II. Presentation on CAFTA

William Waren and Sylvia Tordova from the Forum on Democracy and Trade briefed the Commission on CAFTA and addressed other areas of international trade agreements. William Waren provided handouts outlining the presentation.

III. Commission Work Session

A. Information Requests from Last Meeting

In response to information requests from the Commission at its December 16th meeting, Richard Coyle provided the Commission with the following: written examples of retaliatory tariffs imposed by the European Union, information about requests received by the Center from people who had experienced problems involving trade agreements and information on single points of contact for the United States Trade Representative in each state.

B. Scheduling Future Commission Meetings

The Commission discussed scheduling future Commission meetings and agreed to meet on the last Friday of each month at 9:00 AM. The Commission will conduct its business in the mornings and subcommittees will convene in the afternoon. The Commission agreed to request the USTR to brief the Commission at a future meeting and directed

subcommittees to prepare questions to be sent to the USTR prior to the briefing. The Commission agreed to send the USTR its questions for a written response even if the USTR is unable to attend a Commission meeting. The Commission also agreed to invite members or representatives from Maine's Congressional Delegation to brief the Commission on trade issues and to discuss ways to effectively work together.

C. February 3rd Public Hearing in Bangor

The Commission discussed the structure of the February 3rd public hearing and agreed that it should be conducted according to the same protocol as legislative public hearings. The Commission directed staff to distribute the press release to all municipalities and development districts. The Commission also directed staff to begin to compile a more extensive list of interested parties.

D. Update from the Legislation Subcommittee

The Legislation Subcommittee briefed the Commission on its recent work. Before drafting possible legislation, the subcommittee felt it was necessary to first develop overall goals and strategies to determine if legislation was necessary and/or appropriate at this time. The subcommittee asked the Commission to further consider these proposed goals and strategies before introducing legislation and noted that the authorizing legislation allows the Commission to introduce legislation at any time.

Bjourn Claeson also briefed the Commission on his recent conversation with Kay Wilkie, Chair of the USTR's Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) and provided a list of IGPAC members.

VI. Sub-committee Work Sessions

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to continue to develop and implement work plans and generate CAFTA questions for a Commission letter to the USTR. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

VII. Next Meeting

The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting on Friday, February 25th at 9:00 AM. Richard Coyle agreed to work with Sen. Raye to determine the availability of the USTR and staff from Maine's congressional delegation to brief the Commission.

V. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, February 25, 2005

State House, Room 126, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, James Wilfong, Dr. Robert Weiss, Bjorn Claeson, Cynthia Phinney, Elizabeth Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Wade Merrit (on behalf of Richard Coyle), Carla Dickstein

Members absent: Mary Ellen Johnston, Barbara Van Burgel, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

I. Introductions

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves and make introductory remarks.

II. Briefing from Representative of Maine's Congressional Delegation

- Erik Heilman (Senator Snowe)
- Jane Alonso (Senator Collins)
- Kimberly Thompson (Representative Michaud)
- Todd Stein (Representative Allen)

Congressional delegation staff met with the Commission to brief the Commission on the current status of CAFTA in Congress and to discuss ways to establish a continued dialog that would allow the Commission to provide input on trade issues. Congressional delegation staff made introductory statements on behalf of their delegation members. Staff then briefed the Commission on the process of CAFTA in Congress, indicating that CAFTA is currently signed and is now in the process of being ratified. CAFTA will go through committee hearings in the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee as early as late March and final passage may be completed sometime this spring. However staff noted that the timing of final passage is dependent upon administration priorities and whether enough votes have been secured.

Congressional delegation staff encouraged input from the Commission regarding CAFTA and other trade issues, noting that while there is no mechanism to amend the CAFTA at this stage, input would help to raise questions during the hearing process. The Commission encouraged the Congressional Delegation to ensure mechanisms are established to inform the public of future trade agreements before they are signed so that the public has the opportunity to provide input.

Action Items:

- Commission members requested Congressional staff to provide 1) Summary of USTR negotiation and consultative processes, 2) List of USTR advisory committees, including membership roster and how appointments are made, 3) Written copies of introductory statements;
- Commission members directed staff to provide the Congressional delegation with a copy of the CTPC authorizing legislation and a summary of the Feb. 3rd public hearing testimony;
- Commission members directed staff to inform the Congressional delegation of future CTPC meetings;
- Commission members requested that the Congressional delegation extend an invitation to USTR to attend the next CTPC meeting on March 25th ; Sen. Raye agreed to follow up with Congressional Delegation staff;
- Commission members agreed to invite Peter Collins, former USTR staff, to the March 25th CTPC meeting; Liz Wyman agreed to check his availability

III. Discussion of Panamanian and Andean Trade Agreements

Alan Stearns, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Baldacci, briefed the Commission on the recent USTR request for gubernatorial action on state government procurement components of trade agreements being negotiated with Panama and Andean countries. Mr. Stearns informed the Commission that USTR request had been sent to all 50 states and that he expected the Governor to issue a response within approximately 6 months. Mr. Stearns also indicated that he had not yet heard back from USTR regarding his requests for additional information. The Commission discussed ways to provide input to the Governor and agreed to discuss the Panamanian and Andean Trade Agreement request at the next meeting and asked members to analyze the request from their own industry perspectives.

IV. Discussion of Public Hearing in Bangor The Commission discussed the February 3rd public hearing at the Husson Business College in Bangor. Commission members felt the hearing was a success, noting the high turnout and broad representation of experiences and knowledge of those who testified. Commission members also noted the overwhelmingly negative testimony that was received and discussed ways to ensure that the Commission receives balanced public testimony that reflects both positive and negative experiences regarding the impact of trade agreements on Maine's economy, businesses and citizens.

The Commission also discussed the April 15-16 National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)/National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) meeting in Washington DC that will discuss the impact of international trade agreements on states. The Commission felt it would be beneficial for some Commission members to attend in order to develop a dialogue with other states and explore the possibility of collaborative efforts. Commission members Rep. Patrick, Rep. Hutton, Liz Wyman and Jim Wilfong expressed interest in attending and agreed to explore opportunities for Commission members to participate.

Action Items:

- The Commission agreed to hold its second public hearing on April 5th from 7-9 PM in Portland. Commission member, Jim Wilfong agreed to contact the University of Southern Maine and Southern Maine Community College about hosting the public hearing.
- Commission members agreed to email comments and questions regarding CAFTA to staff by March 21st; Staff agreed to compile the comments and questions into a letter to send to the Congressional delegation
- The Commission passed a motion proposed by Dr. Weiss that the Commission chairs contact representatives from California and Washington to determine if representatives from these states would be attending the April 15th NCSL/NAAG meeting and to explore how Commission members can participate in the meeting.
- Commission agreed to distribute press release and letters to a variety of media outlets, including but not limited to Brunswick Times Record, Lewiston Sun Journal, Biddeford, Portland Press Herald, Rumsford Times, and the Kennebec Journal; Rep Hutton requested to write an editorial for Brunswick Times
- The Commission directed staff write a press release providing notice of the Portland meeting and highlighting the work of the Commission; Commission members suggested that the chairs and other members write letters to the editor to publicize the Portland public meeting and the work of the Commission.

VI. Sub-committee Work Session

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to continue to develop and implement work plans and generate CAFTA questions for a Commission letter to the USTR. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

VII. Adjournment

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

April, 22, 2005

State House, Room 126, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, Dr. Robert Weiss, Bjorn Claeson, Mark Haggerty, Cynthia Phinney, Mary Ellen Johnston, Wade Merrit (on behalf of Richard Coyle)

Members absent: Sen. Raye, Sen. Bryant, Rep. Patrick, Rep. Carr, Barbara Van Burgel, James Wilfong, Elizabeth Wyman, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle, Vanessa Santarelli

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst

I. Introductions

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

II. Briefing from Lisa Reinhalter

Lisa Reinhalter presented her preliminary findings from her telephone interviews with Commission members regarding the purpose, mission and challenges of the Commission. Ms. Reinhalter informed the Commission that these findings will be presented in her research paper that she will provide to the Commission in May. Her preliminary findings are attached.

III. Discussion of Annual Report and Assessment

Report: The Commission agreed to develop the report and that it should detail what the Commission has done over the past year and include public hearing notes and meeting minutes.

Assessment: The Commission established an “assessment subcommittee” to work with the three other subcommittees to determine the form and subject matter of the assessment. The assessment subcommittee was directed to consider the input provided by the other three subcommittees and to give its recommendations for the assessment to the Commission at the May 27th meeting. The assessment subcommittee includes Cynthia Phinney, Bjorn Claeson and Dr. Wiess. The Commission agreed to use those recommendations to develop a package of information and ideas to be used by an outside organization such as the Forum on Trade and Democracy to do a deeper assessment based on the direction and information provided by the Commission. The Commission directed staff to find out whether or not contracting with an outside source for the assessment would be require that it go through a bidding process.

IV. Scheduling the Next Meeting and Public Hearing.

The Commission will meet on May 27th in Augusta and will set the date for its next public hearing at that meeting. The Commission requested that a discussion of how the Commission can do a better job of reaching out to all sides of the issues surrounding trade agreements including educational efforts, be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Guests. The Commission was informed by Wade Merrit that Christina Sevilla from the Office of the United States Trade Representative has verbally agreed to attend a meeting of the Commission. Mr. Merrit will check her availability for the May 27th meeting. If she is unavailable the Commission would like to have Peter Collins attend the next meeting. The Commission agreed to invite guests that have expertise in economics and that can provide an economic overview of Maine's economy and how trade agreements and other factors have shaped that economy. It was also agreed to invite someone with expertise in labor matters that can provide information about how Maine's labor force and how it has been affected by trade agreements and other factors over the years. Members cited a number of people who are potential guests and staff was directed to work with Commission members to make necessary arrangements.

VI. NCSL Meeting Report Back and IGPAC Membership.

Rep. Hutton provided the Commission with a brief overview of the National Conference of State Legislatures meeting held in April 2005 in Washington D.C. regarding states and international trade agreements. Among other things, Rep. Hutton reported that there was extreme concern among all states regarding trade agreements and in particular state sovereignty issues. Rep. Hutton also informed that Commission that it might be possible to get a representative from the northeast on IGPAC and that Elizabeth Wyman is a potential candidate, however, the process for placing someone on IGPAC is unclear at this time. The Commission unanimously voted to support Elizabeth Wyman's induction into IGPAC. Rep. Hutton provided the Commission with documents from the meeting and Wade Merrit provided the remarks of Ambassador Peter Allgeier, both are attached.

VII. GAO Study.

The Commission voted unanimously to have Rep. Hutton and Wade Merit draft language to ask Sen. Snowe to request the GAO to study the relationship between the USTR and the states. Once the initial language is drafted they will circulate it to members by email for comment. If there consent about sending the letter it will be sent out directly however, if there is dissent among members, it will held and discussed at the Commission's next meeting. Mr. Merrit stated that the USTR has been asked to convene a meeting of SPOCs to talk about issues regarding communications between the USTR and the states. Wade Merrit stated that SPOCs across the nation are frustrated with the current process.

VIII. Legislation.

The legislative subcommittee presented its recommendations to the Commission and the Commission voted unanimously to:

1. Have staff research any potential legal problems that may need to be addressed before adopting the recommended legislation;
2. Directed the legislative subcommittee to meet with Allen Sterns to ensure the Governor has no concerns regarding the recommended legislation; and
3. If the Governor has no concerns, directed staff to draft language to carryout the recommendations.

The subcommittee's recommendations are attached.

IX. CAFTA Statement.

The Commission voted unanimously to put together a subcommittee to draft a letter to the Governor, USTR and Maine's Congressional Delegation that strongly states the Commission's support of international trade but based on the following concerns and two public hearings the Commission cannot support CAFTA. Those concerns among other are:

1. Maine's sovereignty;
2. Health issues in Maine and abroad;
3. Environmental impacts;
4. Effectiveness of treaties;
5. CAFTA not beneficial to many small businesses;
6. Intellectual property issues;
7. The process used to negotiate CAFTA;
8. Other similar trade agreements' unintended consequences; and
9. CAFTA is not a fair international trade agreement.

The Commission directed the subcommittee (Matt Schlobohm, Mary Ellen Johnston and Bjorn Claeson) to draft a letter that encompasses in more detail the sentiments and concerns listed above and send it to members via email. If there is agreement on its contents it should be sent out ASAP but if there is dissent the letter will be held until it can be discussed at the next meeting.

X. Funding Sources.

The Commission agreed that it can't rely on General Fund money and needs to look for outside funding sources. The Commission discussed possible sources of funding such as The Noyce Foundation, Maine Initiatives and the Hood Foundation. The Commission discussed needs that would require additional funding such as staffing, additional meetings, travel etc. There was discussion about developing a plan with a long-term vision that would identify funding needed to meet that vision. Sen. Rotundo suggested members individually initiate conversation with potential funding sources and Rep. Hutton suggested that when Sen, Rotundo and Rep. Patrick meet with the Forum on Democracy and Trade in May they discuss possible funding sources. Matt Schlobohm suggested the Commission draft a letter of inquiry for funding sources. The Commission directed staff to check for any potential legal problems with nonprofits making grants to governmental entities.

XI. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 2:00PM without convening subcommittees.

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, May 27, 2005

State House, Room 126, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members present: Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Kevin Raye, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, Bjorn Claeson, Mark Haggerty, Cynthia Phinney, Richard Coyle, Elizabeth Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Carla Dickstein, Peter Connell

Members absent: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Barbara Van Burgel, Dr. Robert Weiss, Mary Ellen Johnston, James Wilfong, Jim Dusch

Staff present: Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

I. Introductions

Rep. Patrick convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

II. Briefing: Maine's Economy and the Impact of Trade Agreements

Dr. Charles Lawton, Senior Economist, Planning Decisions, Inc. provided the Commission with a general overview of Maine's economy, citing three main trends: the income-earnings paradox, the natural resources glut, and the housing boom. Dr. Lawton also discussed the impact of trade agreements on Maine's economy. (A copy of Dr. Lawton's presentation is attached)

III. Discussion of Commission's Annual Report and Assessment Requirements

Rep. Patrick briefed the Commission on the Forum on Democracy and Trade Leadership Meeting on International Trade and the States, held on April 29th – May 1st in Washington DC. The meeting provided a forum for states to convene to discuss critical trade issues impacting states as well as develop and cultivate collaborative efforts. Rep. Patrick and Sen Rotundo attended the meeting on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission also received a report back from the Assessment Subcommittee indicating that they are in the process of working with the three other subcommittees (Healthcare Subcommittee, Business, Labor and Economic Development Subcommittee and Environment and Natural Resources Subcommittee) to determine the form and subject matter of the assessment. The Commission directed staff to provide a list of other state trade commissions as well as an example of an assessment conducted by another state.

IV. Scheduling the Next Public Hearing

The Commission decided to hold its next public hearing in October at a location in Aroostook County. The Commission directed staff to email potential dates for the public hearing to the Commission. The Commission also discussed how it can do a better job of reaching out to all sides of the issues surrounding trade agreements so that they receive comprehensive information at its future public hearings. Potential strategies identified included utilizing the Aroostook County legislative delegation to inform constituents of the public hearing and increasing advertising to encourage participation from those in the business community and those in support of trade agreements. The Commission also discussed potentially inviting leaders from the metal, forest products and exporter industries to a future meeting.

V. Discussion of the June 24th Meeting

The Commission agreed to gather individual and subcommittee data requests and questions by June 10th to send to Christina Sevilla from the Office of the United States Trade Representative in advance of her briefing to the Commission scheduled for June 24th.

VI. Commission Response to CAFTA

Commission member, Bjorn Claeson provided the Commission with a draft statement in opposition to DR-CAFTA for consideration by the Commission. The Commission members present voted to unanimously adopt an amended version of the statement, pending review of the final language. Bjorn Claeson agreed to email the final revised statement to the Commission no later than Tuesday, May 31st for final approval. The Commission noted that DR-CAFTA is scheduled for a mock mark up in the Senate Finance Committee on June 14th after which it will be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee. Given the short time frame in which DR-CAFTA is being considered in Congress, the Commission agreed to conduct immediate media work around the release of its statement. The Commission directed staff to:

- Draft a press release
- Schedule a press conference at the Statehouse for the week of June 6th
- Send a copy of the statement to newspaper editorial boards along with an offer from the Commission Chairs to meet with them to discuss the statement
- Email the statement to interested parties
- Contact Congressional Delegation staff to determine if they are available to meet with the Commission on June 17th to follow up on DR-CAFTA.

VII. Introduction of Legislation this Session

The Commission received an update from the legislation subcommittee indicating that they were unable to complete legislation in time to be considered this legislative session and will continue to work on developing legislation for possible consideration during the Second Session of the 122nd Legislature.

VIII. USTR State Request on GATS

The Commission reviewed a draft letter in response to a May 3rd USTR memo to the State Points of Contact (SPOCs) and the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) asking for comments regarding ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The draft response from the Commission asked that USTR carve out Maine state and local government actions from the new GATS offer scheduled to be tabled by May 31st until the Commission has had an opportunity to adequately review and analyze the language of the proposed commitment. The Commission members present voted unanimously to adopt the letter with minor revisions and send it immediately to USTR.

IX. Sub-committee Work Session

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to continue to work on the Commission's annual assessment. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

X. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 3:00PM

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, June 24, 2005

State House, Room 126, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members present: Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Bjorn Claeson, Jim Dusch, Cynthia Phinney, Richard Coyle, Mary Ellen Johnston, Elizabeth Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Carla Dickstein, Peter Connell, Dr. Robert Weiss.

Members absent: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Sen. Kevin Raye, Paul Volckhausen, Barbara Van Burgel, Mark Haggerty, James Wilfong.

Staff present: Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

I. Introductions

Rep. Patrick convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

II. Commission Work Session

Staffing

The Commission discussed its staffing needs and voted unanimously to direct the Chairs, in consultation with staff, to develop a written policy establishing procedures and guidelines for the utilization of Commission staff during the legislative session.

Annual Report and Assessment Requirements

The Commission received a report back from the Assessment Subcommittee indicating that they are still in the process of working with the three other subcommittees (Healthcare Subcommittee, Business, Labor and Economic Development Subcommittee and Environment and Natural Resources Subcommittee) to develop the form and subject matter of the annual assessment. The subcommittees agreed to send draft assessments to staff before the next Commission meeting and the Commission directed staff to provide a draft report and assessment for the Commission to review at its next meeting. The Commission also agreed to ask the Forum on Democracy and Trade to review the draft subcommittee assessments in order to provide technical assistance.

USTR State Request on GATS

The Commission discussed its May 27th letter to USTR in response to a May 3rd USTR memo to the State Points of Contact (SPOCs) and the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) asking for comments regarding ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization

(WTO) on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The response from the Commission asked that USTR carve out Maine state and local government actions from the new GATS offer until the Commission has had an opportunity to adequately review and analyze the language of the proposed commitment. The Commission did not receive a response from USTR. The Commission members present voted unanimously to send a letter to the Congressional delegation asking for assistance obtaining a response from USTR in order to strengthen and clarify the system for communicating with USTR in future. Commission member Liz Wyman agreed to draft the letter and staff agreed to follow up with the Congressional delegation.

Scheduling the Next Commission Meeting

The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting on July 22nd in order to review and vote on its annual report and assessment and directed staff to confirm that a quorum will be present. The Commission decided not to meet in August due to its inability to secure a quorum. The Commission also agreed to extend another invitation to USTR to attend its September meeting. Commission member Richard Coyle agreed to check USTR's availability in September.

III. Sub-committee Work Session

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to continue to work on the Commission's annual assessment. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

IV. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 3:00PM

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, September 30, 2005

State House, Room 126, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Cynthia Phinney, Mary Ellen Johnston, Elizabeth Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Peter Connell, Dr. Robert Weiss, Paul Volckhausen , Mark Haggerty and Wade Merritt (on behalf of Richard Coyle).

Members absent:, Sen. Kevin Raye, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Barbara Van Burgel, , James Wilfong, Matt Schlobohm, Bjorn Claeson, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle, Carla Dickstein

Staff present: Curtis Bentley and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analysts

I. Introductions

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

II. Commission Work Session

Annual Report and Assessment

The Commission reviewed a draft of its annual report and assessment with staff. The Commission received comments from the Forum on Democracy and Trade on the three subcommittee assessments. Subcommittees agreed to meet in the afternoon to review these comments and develop a final draft.

Action items:

- Subcommittees agreed to email any changes to the draft subcommittee assessments to staff by October 14th
- Staff agreed to have a final draft of the Commission's report and assessment at the October 28th meeting
- The Commission directed staff to draft an executive summary for the report.

Scheduling the Next Commission Meeting

Staff informed the Commission that a representative from USTR was available to meet with the Commission on October 28th from 8:00-10:00. Commission members discussed the format and content of the meeting . Given the short time frame USTR will be available, the Commission agreed to prepare a limited number of questions in advance and to focus its discussion primarily on the USTR's consultation process. The Commission agreed to have the chairs start the meeting with brief history of the Commission and why USTR was invited to the meeting and give a statement regarding the inadequacy of the consultation process between USTR and the states. Commission members reviewed a list of questions for USTR it had generated last May and decided to use four questions from that list regarding the

consultation process and generate two additional questions on the upcoming Hong Kong round of negotiations on GATS and the recent decision on the Methanex case.

Action items:

- The Commission directed staff to send an invitation to the Congressional delegation to attend the USTR briefing on October 28th
- Commission member Liz Wyman agreed to draft a final list of questions for USTR
- Staff agreed to email the final list of questions to the Commission

Workplan for the Next Year

The Commission received a telephone briefing from Peter Riggs, Executive Director of the Forum on Democracy and Trade. Mr. Riggs identified the following five areas the Commission could potentially focus its work on over the next year:

- Healthcare pharmaceuticals – Dirigo choice
- Agriculture – milk subsidies
- Domestic Regulation on GATS – professional license requirements issues
- Methanex – codify decision
- Softwood Lumber Case in Canada

The Commission discussed its overall agenda for the next year and agreed it needed additional time to fully consider its options. It was suggested that over the next year the Commission try to join with other states as one voice to become more successful in negotiating with the USTR. It was also pointed out that NAG and the NCSL working groups may be good facilitators for working with other states. The Chairs agreed to move the discussion to the October 28th meeting. The Commission also discussed receiving a briefing from a representative of the AFL-CIO at its November meeting. Commission member Cynthia Phinney agreed to work with staff on securing a speaker and a date for the meeting.

III. Sub-committee Work Session

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to review the Commission's draft report and assessment. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

IV. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 3:00PM

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, October 28, 2005

State House, Room 126, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Kevin Raye, Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Cynthia Phinney, Mary Ellen Johnston, Linda Pistner, Matt Schlobohm, Peter Connell, Bjorn Claeson, Carla Dickstein, Dr. Robert Weiss, Paul Volckhausen, Mark Haggerty and Wade Merritt (on behalf of Richard Coyle).

Members absent: Barbara Van Burgel, James Wilfong, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle, Vanessa Santarelli

Staff present: Curtis Bentley and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analysts

I. Introductions

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

II. Office of the United States Trade Representative - Christina Sevilla

Christina Sevilla - Presentation

Christina Sevilla gave a brief presentation covering the following areas.

1. The overall case for trade
2. What trade agreements do and do not do
 - Local and federal regulation
 - Procurements
 - Investment rules
 - Consultation with states

Following Christina's prepared statements the Commission asked a series of questions and follow-up questions. Additionally, Alan Stearns asked Christina Sevilla a number of questions and made statements on behalf of the Governor. Per the Commission's request, a transcript of the proceedings is being prepared by staff and will be sent to Commission members and Maine's Congressional Delegation. Additionally, the Commission directed staff to send USTR the list of questions posed to Christina Sevilla for a written response along with a 'thank you' letter.

III. Commission work session

Annual report

- Annual report - The Commission reviewed the final draft of its annual report and voted unanimously to approve it with minor modifications.

Assessment

- Discussed options for producing an annual report by the end of FY 2005-06
- Directed staff to pull together existing literature dealing with the impacts international trade agreements have had on Maine for the Commission's review.
- Directed subcommittees to review subject areas to determine if they may need technical assistance from outside entities

Scheduling the Next Commission Meeting and Public Hearing

Next meeting:

- The Commission's next meeting will be held on December 2, 2005, starting at 9:30 a.m. ??? will talk to the Commission about labor and economic development interests in trade.
- For planning purposes, the Commission agreed to hold its monthly meetings on the first Friday of every month unless circumstances require alternative dates.
- Commission agreed to invite Alan Stearns from the Governor's office to its next meeting to discuss points of contact with USTR and to establish a subcommittee with Richard Coyle, Linda Pistner and others to keep active contact between the Commission, the Governor, SPOC and USTR.
- Commission members were directed to bring a list of entities that they would like the Commission to work with to help amplify the Commission's voice on trade related matters.
- Members should think about local trade issues that the Commission should work on and bring those ideas to the next meeting

Next public hearing:

- The Commission agreed to hold the next public hearing in Houlton, Maine on at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2005. Representative Carr will work with staff to find a suitable location.
- The public hearing will focus on border issues facing Maine businesses
- The Commission directed staff to issue a press release and to notify Maine's Congressional Delegation and the Governor about the meeting.

Briefing on IRTPA by Wade Merritt

- Commission voted unanimously to go on record as opposing the new passport requirement for crossing the border with Canada and directed the staff to notify the Governor's Office immediately and to send a letter stating the Commission's opposition to Maine's Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States and the Secretary of State. The Commission also directed staff to send out a press release.

FY 2005-06 Budget review and Executive Director position

- The Commission reviewed its budget for FY 2005-06 and decided not to develop legislation to create an executive director position.

Over-all Work plan for FY 2005- 06

- Commission will seek to improve relationship with USTR and will work with Maine's Congressional Delegation and other states to achieve this objective
- It was suggested that the Commission review the Federal Trade Act of 2002 because it is coming up for reauthorization in 2007 and the Commission may wish to put together what it thinks should be in a trade agreement
- Trade Promotion Authority – it was suggested that the Commission try to weigh in on this issue and directed staff to go to NCSL's webpage on this topic and send it to Commission members
- IT was suggested that the Commission work with Maine's Congressional Delegation to create more transparency during the negotiation process of trade agreements
- Legislators out-reach effort to educate legislators about the potential and current impacts international trade agreements are having on Maine. Invite Peter Riggs for the Forum on Trade And Democracy to meet with legislative committees to discuss why they need to consider trade matters when working bills
- Directed staff to poll OPLA for trade related items that were associated with the last legislative session
- The Commission agreed the second public hear should be held in central Maine.

III. Sub-committee Work Session

Subcommittees agreed to meet after the adjournment of the Commission and to report back on its work to the full Commission at its next meeting.

IV. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 1:00PM

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, December 2, 2005

State House, Room 126, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), , Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Cynthia Phinney, Matt Schlobohm, Peter Connell, Bjorn Claeson, Carla Dickstein, Dr. Robert Weiss, , Mark Haggerty, Leslie Manning (on behalf of Vanessa Santarelli, Liz Wyman (on behalf of Linda Pistner) and Stephen Franck (on behalf of Richard Coyle).

Members absent: Sen. Kevin Raye, Mary Ellen Johnston, Barbara Van Burgel, Linda Pistner, James Wilfong, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle, Vanessa Santarelli, and Paul Volckhausen

Staff present: Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

I. Introductions

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

II. Briefing from Thea Lee AFL-CIO

Christina Sevilla gave a brief presentation covering the following areas.

1. The overall case for trade
2. What trade agreements do and do not do
 - Local and federal regulation
 - Procurements
 - Investment rules
 - Consultation with states

Following Christina's prepared statements the Commission asked a series of questions and follow-up questions. Additionally, Alan Stearns asked Christina Sevilla a number of questions and made statements on behalf of the Governor. Per the Commission's request, a transcript of the proceedings is being prepared by staff and will be sent to Commission members and Maine's Congressional Delegation. Additionally, the Commission directed staff to send USTR the list of questions posed to Christina Sevilla for a written response along with a 'thank you' letter.

III. Discussion of Border Issues

Peter Connell

Illegal Installation of Modular homes

Despite changes in federal regulations there is still a significant lack of enforcement of NAFTA provisions at the US-Canadian border to prohibit the entry of Canadian drivers as business visitors

to set modular homes. Canadian workers are performing illegal construction work in the U.S. Some Canadian workers who are permitted to transport and deliver manufactured homes into the U.S. under B-1 visas are then also installing or assembling the manufactured homes at the delivery site which is in violation of NAFTA and immigration laws. It also places these workers in direct competition with U.S. workers, and places American firms at a competitive disadvantage.

Canadian Ombudsman – need place to field complaints and stay on top of issue

- The position was created by legislature during the King Administration, yet was first funded in the first budget of Governor Baldacci's term.
- Governor Baldacci did not nominate a person to the position during his first biennium (the 121st Legislature), due to a combination of budget constraints and other factors.
- The 121st Legislature, second regular session, added additional resources to the position's authorized salary, to allow more high profile recruitment.
- Governor Baldacci has not yet nominated anyone to the position, but intends to submit a nomination to the first regular session of the 122nd Legislature (this winter).
- The nomination must be confirmed by the Maine Senate.
- The duties of the Ombudsman are enumerated by statute.

Rep. Carr

Based on a 2002 public hearing in Bangor, the Legislature's rural caucus supported legislation to create a the Canadian Trade Ombudsman position. It was passed and funded but was not filled by the Governor. Due to budget shortfalls last session, funding was removed from the position.

Issues – inequity between businesses

Logging Industry – large companies advertise jobs and once they can't hire Maine loggers, they bring in bonded labor

Holton Dairy – wanted to sell ice cream in Canada and was told they were unable to because their quota was filled

Trucking – Canadians bring in potatoes dropping off/picking up loads and putting them in Maine and other places which is illegal

Fasco Manufacturing Company in Lincoln – sold a boiler in Canada but was not allowed to install it. However, Canadian companies can install boilers sold in Maine.

Goding Cement – truck broke down in Canada and sent a mechanic who was not allowed to fix it; they were required to use a Canadian mechanic

Wyman Blueberries

Potatoes

Over-all Work plan for FY 2005- 06

- Commission will seek to improve relationship with USTR and will work with Maine's Congressional Delegation and other states to achieve this objective
- It was suggested that the Commission review the Federal Trade Act of 2002 because it is coming up for reauthorization in 2007 and the Commission may wish to put together what it thinks should be in a trade agreement
- Trade Promotion Authority – it was suggested that the Commission try to weigh in on this issue and directed staff to go to NCSL's webpage on this topic and send it to Commission members
- IT was suggested that the Commission work with Maine's Congressional Delegation to create more transparency during the negotiation process of trade agreements
- Legislators out-reach effort to educate legislators about the potential and current impacts international trade agreements are having on Maine. Invite Peter Riggs for the Forum on Trade And Democracy to meet with legislative committees to discuss why they need to consider trade matters when working bills
- Directed staff to poll OPLA for trade related items that were associated with the last legislative session
- The Commission agreed the second public hear should be held in central Maine.

III. Sub-committee Work Session

Subcommittees agreed to meet after the adjournment of the Commission and to report back on its work to the full Commission at its next meeting.

IV. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 1:00PM