

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, January 5, 2007

Room 126, State House, Augusta

10:30 AM meeting of the subcommittees

1 PM meeting of the full Commission

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Sharon Treat, Malcolm Burson, Peter Connell, Leslie Manning, Wade Merritt, Cynthia Phinney, Linda Pistner, Matt Schlobohm and Paul Volckhausen.

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst, and Alison Ames, Legislative Researcher.

Full Commission convenes 1:00 PM

I. Report back from subcommittees' 10:30 a.m. meetings.

The Natural resources subcommittee reviewed the natural resources assessment section and discussed that without representation on the Agriculture committee, Maine was basically without any leverage to affect the recommendations of the assessment.

The Labor/economic development subcommittee had the following suggestions:

- ◆ raise labor and environmental standards within all legislation going forward;
- ◆ look at the impact of global warming on the Maine economy;
- ◆ determine the impact on Maine workers when non-Maine-based businesses don't comply with Maine workers compensation standards;
- ◆ fill the CPTC vacancy with an employer with less than 24 employees; and
- ◆ get an update on the Illinois/Sudan lawsuit.

The Labor/economic development subcommittee also identified the following potential speakers:

- ◆ John Dorrer, Maine Dept. of Labor—how trade is impacting labor;
- ◆ Alan Tonelson;
- ◆ Congressman Mike Michaud or his chief of staff, Peter Chandler –game plan for fast track; and
- ◆ John Richardson—prior to his confirmation hearing as new director for DECD.

The Health care subcommittee has concerns about the general description of Dirigo in the assessment. Linda Pistner agreed to work with Peter Riggs to get a more accurate description of Dirigo.

II. Staffing during legislative session. Rep. Patrick informed the Commission that Office of Policy and Legal Analysis staffer, Curtis Bentley would only be available to help the CTPC with drafting and legal issues while the Legislature is in session and would return to his CTPC assignment during the interim. Alison Ames, OPLA Legislative Researcher is available to assist CTPC during the session. Staff provided a draft of legislation that would change the frequency of CTPC assessment to a biennial assessment and remove OPLA staffing responsibilities while the Legislature is in session and require agencies with representation on the Commission to provide staffing during that time.

Malcolm Burson indicated DEP did not have the resources to be able to pick up staffing responsibilities for the CTPC during the legislative session. Other members discussed the issues of revolving staff without a consistent staff person. Sen. Bryant made a motion to create a full time staff person plus \$50,000 for all other. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. Review, discussion and adoption of final draft assessment. Peter Riggs provided a brief overview of the assessment. Linda Pistner provided clarification that the Dirigo program is more than just an insurance program—it also includes a bundle of services. Peter Riggs said a state has a right to make a request to USTR to be carved out of an agreement. When questioned about how to craft legislation that would be less likely to be challenged or easier to defend, Peter Riggs suggested using GATS ART. 20 general exceptions language in the legislation itself.

IV. Discussion about how to publicly present the assessment on 17 January. Peter Riggs will be a guest speaker at a dinner for legislators on the southern bus tour in Portland at USM on Jan. 17, 2007. CTPC decided that would be a good opportunity to roll-out the assessment. Leslie Manning volunteered Adam Fisher from the Dept. of Labor to assist with the public relations effort and to contact newspapers (KJ. Portland Press Herald, Lewiston Sun, and Bangor Daily News) and radio stations (MPBN, WMPG and WERU) that could help publicize the event. CPTC members will put together a flyer for the event and Peter Riggs will prepare a brief overview of CTPC and a quick summary of the Forum's assessment.

V. Approval of assessment. Matt Schlobohm made a motion to accept the Assessment with the minor language changes to the Health Care section concerning the Dirigo program discussed by the Commission. Sen. Bryant seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Report back by Sen. Rotundo and Rep. Patrick on global trade conference – fast track; what other states are doing. Sen. Rotundo and Rep. Patrick referred to the model fast track resolution included in the States' Rights and International Trade report put out by Public Citizen and distributed at the CPTC meeting. All states were encouraged to adopt the model resolution and adapt it to make it more specific to their own state. Sen. Treat, Matt Schlobohm and Linda Pistner agreed to work

together to construct a Maine specific draft, with Rep. Treat as the point person. They would then send their work on to OPLA to complete the draft resolution.

VII. Discussion of potential guest. Peter Connell will continue to explore dates and times with Alan Tonelson (possibly April) and report back possible dates at the next meeting. Cynthia Phinney mentioned that there might be some funding from the Labor Council and some from UM to help defray costs of Alan's visit.

VIII. Discussion of public hearing in Presque Isle. The CTPC briefly discussed the compelling testimony heard at the public hearing and offered suggestions about how the testimony could best be used. The commission agreed that pictures, snippets and some videotaping could create a powerful piece whether for a printed brochure or for the website. Sarah Laskowski, an intern to the CPTC from USM will review existing documentation of the testimony and create a mechanism to share the real stories and the personal impact on Maine workers heard by the CTPC at the public hearings.

IX. Set next meeting dates and agenda items.

Mon., 12 Feb. 2007:

Draft Agenda Items

Update on Alan Tonelson.....Peter Connell

Revised fast track resolution.....Rep. Treat

Commission legislation strategy.....CTPC discussion

Review of Peter Riggs's visit.....CTPC discussion

Subcommittee work on implementing the assessment recommendations.....CTPC

discussion

Availability briefing (either in person or conference call) with Trade Legislative

Aides (Peter Chandler)...Alison Ames

Update on fast track from Lori Wallach.....Matt Schlobohm

Suggestions for new members.....CTPC discussion

Update on the compilation of public hearing information.....Sarah Laskowski

Fri., 2 Mar. 2007

Draft Agenda Items

Presentation by Michael Younus, a Modular Home Manufacturers of the Northeast.....Peter Connell

XI. Adjournment.

- The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 4:00 PM.

OPLA Action items

- Send contact list to Members
- Determine Congressional delegation trade legislative aides schedule in Maine and explore possible CTPC attendance or conference call

Citizen Trade Policy Commission
Monday, February 12, 2007
Room 126, State House, Augusta

10:30 AM meeting of the subcommittees

1 PM meeting of the full Commission

Meeting Summary

Members present:, Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Sen. Kevin Raye, Malcolm Burson, Carla Dickstein, Leslie Manning, Wade Merritt, Cynthia Phinney, Linda Pistner, Matt Schlobohm and Paul Volckhausen.

Staff present: Alison Ames, Legislative Researcher and Sarah Laskowski, intern.

Full Commission convenes 1:00 PM (Transportation Committee Room, SH Room 126)

I. Update on fast track from Lori Wallach, Public Citizen's Director of Global Trade Watch Division www.TradeWatch.org

Lori Wallach, by conference call, offered a brief history and basic overview of trade policy including the implementation of "Fast Track." Fast Track essentially delegates the authority over trade policy that was originally granted to Congress from Congress to the Executive branch and removes Congressional and state review and input from trade agreements. Fast Track is set to expire on June 30, 2007 and this 'sunset' provides for the opportunity to create a new version that re-inserts the checks and balances originally envisioned by the Constitution.

During a question and answer period, Ms. Wallach indicated that "the sooner the better" was the timeline for getting involved by contacting the Congressional delegation as they were busy working on a new campaign to replace Fast Track. She also said that services such as insurance, hospitals and the au pair system would be increasingly affected by any new trade agreements. As she had a prior commitment at 2 p.m. that she had to leave for, she offered to be available later to answer additional questions. She also said that there were various informative fact sheets concerning Fast Track and on her web site that commission members might find helpful.

II. Report back from subcommittees' 10:30 a.m. meetings.

The Labor and Economic Development subcommittee met and discussed the upcoming visit by Alan Tonelson. No other subcommittees met.

III. Discussion of upcoming guest speaker, Alan Tonelson.

Alan Tonelson will be in Maine for a couple of days over the week of April 23rd and will address the CTPC at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24th. Commission members should continue to coordinate additional speaking engagements for Mr. Tonelson through Cynthia Phinney. Pete Connell will maintain contact with Mr. Tonelson and assist him with final arrangements. Additional speaking engagements suggested by commission members include the University of Maine, Husson, the University of Maine at Lewiston, Auburn, the University of Southern Maine, Colby, and a cable TV interview with Kit St. John. Because of the demands of the legislative schedule, Mr. Tonelson's visit will replace the regular April CTPC meeting.

Additional speakers suggested for upcoming meetings were Howard Rosen (internet) and Jonathon Rubin from the University of Maine with information on global warming and its impact on Maine.

IV. Update on Revised fast track resolution.

Previously the commission had discussed creating a resolution to be introduced to the legislature dealing with Fast Track. A sample document had been distributed to the commission. There was some concern about the tone of the document, as written. The commission agreed to review the document and to email any comments or concerns to Leslie Manning. A subcommittee of Leslie Manning, Rep. Treat, Matt Schlobohm, Wade Merritt and Linda Pistner would work together to edit the document, incorporating the comments received and then get a version to staff by February 26th. Staff would then email the updated version to commission members to review in advance of the March meeting. The commission could then discuss and vote on the issue and decide whether to direct the chairs to introduce the resolution to the legislature.

IV. Review of Peter Riggs's visit.

Commission members generally agreed that Peter Riggs's visit was beneficial. Mr. Riggs had a good opportunity to connect with legislators, key committees and the press concerning his work and his assessment of the commission. When the commission has a quorum they will vote to send him a letter expressing their thanks for his visit and for the work he has done on behalf of the CTPC.

V. Suggestions for new members to fill vacancies.

Members discussed the various vacant seats on the commission and made suggestions for groups or agencies that might provide candidates –such as the tourism industry, small business, and health care either through the Maine Hospital Association or the Maine Medical Association. Rep. Patrick indicated he was working with the House staff to get another Representative appointed. Members would check into possible candidates and get their suggestions to staff. Staff would also contact the Commissioner of Agriculture with a reminder that their seat on the commission had been vacant since Mary Ellen Johnston had left the Department.

VI. Update on the compilation of public hearing information.

CTPC Intern Sarah Laskowski told the commission she had reviewed much of the previous CTPC public hearing information and she had spoken to Matt Schlobohm about the best format for the delivery of that information. She said she would be ready to make a presentation to the commission at their next meeting.

VII. Room Availability for Fri. Mar. 2, 2007 subcommittee meetings.

Staff informed the commission that legislative committee meeting room availability for next month's subcommittees was limited because of the legislative session. Subcommittees would either have to share meeting rooms or suggest alternate places to meet. Subcommittees decided to suspend meeting temporarily, especially until some of the vacancies had been filled.

Vii. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 3:00 PM.

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Room 126, State House, Augusta

9:00 AM Commission Meeting

Meeting Summary

Members present:, Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Jeffery Gifford, Carla Dickstein, John Harker (standing in for Jane Aiudi), Leslie Manning, Wade Merritt, Cynthia Phinney and Matt Schlobohm.

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst.

- I. Bill Warren, Forum on Democracy and Trade** – Provided an update on recent developments involving international trade and provided suggestions about areas the commission may want to focus on over the next year. More specifically:
- Mr. Warren stated that with the lapsing of the Trade Promotion Authority, Maine and other states are in a good position to weigh in on what future free trade agreements (FTAs) look like. One option could be to establish a national commission like Maine's commission to audit countries to ensure they are meeting the standards they have agreed to meet;
 - There appears to be an "agreement deal" between the two congressional parties and the White House regarding free trade agreements (however, there is no legislative language yet) that may include enforceable core labor standards, enforcement of environmental laws through trade agreements, authority for under-developed countries to produce generic drugs in cases of emergency and would include the "no greater rights" principle (no more substantive rights than other investors have in the country). It is likely that the "deal" would only apply prospectively;
 - Mr. Warren stated that the Peru FTA is "on ice" because Peru has one of the worst labor records regarding unions and the Korean FTA while economically important, has significant opposition in Congress and will be dead on arrival if beef and automobile issues are not resolved;
 - Mr. Warren believes that significant reform of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program will fall on the next president. Mr. Warren pointed out that that program is widely criticized on both sides of the political isle because it is considered an administrative nightmare and has complex eligibility requirements;
 - States need some mechanism to weigh in on trade related issues such as giving states pre-trade agreement consultations like Congress, where states would be briefed before negotiations and outlines are in place or a state/local oversight group could be created to provide for pre-agreement consultation as well as consultation during negotiations;

- Mr. Warren said that USTR has withdrawn its gambling commitment and now other countries can ask for compensation for the withdrawal of the gambling commitment but it is not clear what is being requested during behind-closed-door negotiations; and
- National Governor's Association recently adopted lobbying position on trade and federalism issues that calls for consultation process and additional resources for TAA but doesn't endorse Fast Track of any FTA specifically. Mr. Warren stated that Maine is in an exceptionally good position to affect negotiations within NGA.

Rep. Patrick asked Mr. Warren to provide written documents for TAA and any other FTA. Mr. Warren responded that he would after the Forum determined what drafting assistance it could provide focusing on the commission's priorities.

- II. Commission's review of draft work plan for FY 07-08.** The draft work plan was generally agreed upon by members however, suggestions were made to focus on particular areas of free trade such as TAA or TPA.
- III. Commission's budget for FY 07-08 and 08-09.** Commission members reviewed its budget in light of the additional \$60,000 available to the commission over the next two fiscal years. Sen. Rotundo stated that the money should be used to achieve something tangible as provided in the draft work plan. The commission directed staff to work with the chairs about funding an administrative position.
- IV. Subcommittees.** Commission agreed to have subcommittees review the three topic areas of focus they have work on in the past and the Commission's latest assessment to see if there is a need to continue to focus on these areas and report back at the next meeting.
- V. Public hearings.** The commission agreed to hold its next public meeting in the south western part of the state in November and to invite Maine's Congressional delegation to attend for a round table discussion after the public hearing. Also discussed possibly holding the second public hearing in Machias in May 2008.
- VI. Regular meeting dates.** The commission agreed to try and hold its regular meetings on the first Thursday of every month and that the October meeting would be held on October 4th starting at 9:00AM.
- VII. Adjournment.** The commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 1:00 PM.

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Room 126, State House, Augusta

9:00 AM Commission Business Meeting

Meeting Summary

Members present:, Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bryant, Rep. Jeffery Gifford, Rep. Treat, Linda Pistner, Carla Dickstein, Jane Aiudi, Leslie Manning, Wade Merritt, Cynthia Phinney and Matt Schlobohm.

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst.

- I. Administrative position** – The commission continued discussions from the last meeting regarding contracting with someone to provide administrative support for the commission. The commission voted unanimously to have the chairs work with staff to develop a contract to hire an administrative position for no more than 2 days per week and for not more than \$20,000 annually. The chairs will brief the commission on the hiring process at the next meeting.
- II. Northeast Regional Meeting** - Peter Riggs (Forum on Democracy and Trade) provided the commission with an update on his efforts to set up the northeast regional meeting. Mr. Riggs suggested that the best vehicle for impacting congress on trade issues is likely the Trade Promotion Authority reauthorization. He also stated that focusing our efforts on congress and not USTR would be the most effective at this point in time. The regional meeting is scheduled for the second week in November, probably the 18th and 19th and will be in southern New Hampshire or Boston. Mr. Riggs stated that the Forum would take care of the organization and logistics of the meeting but paying for the meeting still needs to be determined; the Forum would be able to provide matching funds. Rep. Patrick suggested that the Forum narrow its draft agenda for the meeting so participants won't get bogged down in too many topics. The chairs and staff will work to develop a budget for the items on the work plan including attending NE regional meetings.
- III. Vacancies** – Sen. Rotundo updated the commission on filling vacancies. Sen. Rotundo announced that Perry Newman was officially appointed to the commission to represent small businesses. The commission considered a number of possible candidates and Sen. Rotundo said that an invitation had been extended to several candidates and she was waiting for a response.

- IV. Subcommittees** – Sen. Rotundo directed subcommittees to meet and discuss the current subcommittee structure and whether or not the subcommittees should continue to meet.
- V. Public hearing** – Staff briefed the commission on recent efforts to secure a locality for the next public hearing. Availability and cost were an issue for localities in Gorham and Portland that were identified at the last meeting. Commission members provided additional locations that may be suitable for the commission’s public hearing and directed staff to continue working on securing a forum. Staff also updated the commission on efforts to get commitments from Maine’s Congressional delegation to attend the next public hearing and round table discussion in November. As of the meeting date, none of the congressional delegation could confirm or rule out attending a public hearing the last week of November. Commission members directed staff to continue efforts to find a date when all or most of the Congressional Delegation could attend a CTPC public hearing.
- VI. Governor** - The commission directed staff to contact Jack Cashman, the point of contact for the Governor’s office on trade matters, to invite him to the commission’s next regular meeting.
- VII. Outreach efforts** – Leslie Manning briefed the commission on options for effectively getting information from the commission to the public and information about trade related issues from the public. Suggestions included targeted surveys, commission hosted programs on cable access TV, civic engagements at public educational institutions particularly high schools, and working with retirees as they tend to be more politically active. Commission agreed to have chairs and staff work with Leslie Manning to integrate her ideas into a work plan. Sen. Rotundo asked commission members to think about what persons or positions to invite to a regular meeting and bring back names at the next meeting.
- VIII. Annual report** – The commission voted unanimously to accept the draft November 2007 annual report of the commission.
- IX. Draft letter regarding Peru Free Trade Agreement** - The commission voted unanimously to have staff ready a draft letter to Maine’s Congressional Delegation containing the commission’s position on a potential Peru FTA should negotiations on that agreement begin to move forward in Congress.
- X. New Hampshire trade organization meeting** – Matt Schlobohm informed the commission that the N.H. trade commission will be meeting on October 22nd and that they had ask Mr. Schlobohm if someone from the commission would be able to attend the meeting. Cynthia Phinney suggested she may be able to attend and would work with Mr. Schlobohm in setting it up.
- XI. Next meeting** - The next meeting date was set for November 2nd (Friday)

VII. Adjournment. The commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 12:00 noon.

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Room 126, State House, Augusta

11:00 AM Commission Business Meeting

Meeting Summary

Members present:, Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Sen. Raye, Rep. Treat, Linda Pistner, Jane Aiudi, Leslie Manning, Malcolm Burson, Cynthia Phinney, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, Wade Merritt, Carla Dickstien, Perry Newman, John Palmer and Elise Flemings.

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst and Alison Ames, Researcher.

- I. Northeast Regional Meeting** – Commission members that attended the 1st northeast regional meeting of state trade commissions in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on November 18th and 19th (Sen. Rotundo, Rep. Treat, Leslie Manning, Cynthia Phinney and Elise Flemings) gave the commission a report on the that meeting. They reported that both members of the Vermont and New Hampshire trade commissions were present as well as representative from Massachusetts and New Jersey. They reported that it was clear from the meeting that Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont could work together to address trade issues and that these states share many of Maine’s concerns about trade agreements. Attendees of the meeting agreed to hold regional meetings at least annually; to work to improve state/federal consultation; to speak with one voice whenever possible; to expand the commission’s model nationally; and to involve Canada as partners in the process.
- II. Legislative outreach efforts** - Discussed efforts to arrange for Peter Riggs to meet with Joint Standing Committees of the Legislature during his visit to Bates College in January. Staff reported working with committee analysts to identify times that Mr. Riggs may be able to address that analyst’s committee and Sen. Rotundo agreed to talk with leadership. It was suggested that joint committee presentations may be possible.
- III. Subcommittees** – Sen. Rotundo directed subcommittees to meet and discuss the current subcommittee structure and whether or not the subcommittees should continue to meet.
- IV. Public hearing/ roundtable** – Staff briefed the commission on recent efforts to secure a locality for the next public hearing and the responses from Maine’s Congressional Delegation regarding the commission’s invitation to attend one of the public hearings. Staff reported that the date proposed for the next public hearing of January 15th would not work for Maine’s Congressional Delegation because session started back up from the holidays on that day. Will continue to work with Maine’s Congressional Delegation’s staff to find an earlier date in January that may work.

Members of the commission suggested using Youth Alternatives or the South Portland Community Center for the public hearing in Portland. Commission asked staff to look into getting cable show access for Peter Riggs and a representative from the commission for a questions and answer session. Leslie Manning offered to help staff set it up. Commission agreed to hold a one-hour meeting prior to the public hearing to conduct commission business.

- V. Other** – Wade Merritt reported on MITC’s Korean trade mission and NCSL’s Trade Policy Leadership Seminar meeting in Phoenix, AZ. The trade mission was hectic but a huge success and sales projections should be out within the next week. The NCSL meeting attendees represented a balance of state legislatures and it appears that there are approximately 10 states that have or are working on commissions similar to Maine’s. Leslie suggested having an advisory group on economic data – look for models on how to catch economic data. Leslie offered to work on this idea.

- VI. Meeting with Maine International Trade Center-** The commission moved its meeting to the Senator in Augusta to a luncheon meeting with the Board of the Maine International Trade Center (MITC). There was general agreement that the commission and MITC agreed that the two entities were well positioned to work together to ensure Maine realizes the best possible outcome from international trade agreements. The commission as a policy body and MITC as an implementer of existing agreements. Both entities agreed to meet on a more regular basis.

- VII. Next Meeting-** Preliminary agenda items: how to remake subcommittees, having Kaye Wilkie attend by conference call, and USTR monthly updates.

- VIII. Adjournment.** The commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 2:00PM.