



MAINE AFL-CIO

A Union of Unions Standing for Maine Workers

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Testimony of Maine AFL-CIO Legislative & Political Director, Adam Goode, in opposition to LD 2228, "An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions"

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Committee, my name is Adam Goode. I am the Legislative and Political Director of the Maine AFL-CIO. We represent 40,000 working people in the state of Maine. We work to improve the lives and working conditions of our members and all working people.

We testify in opposition to LD 2228 based on the proposed bill language that eliminates the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission. Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission ("the Commission") was established in 2003 by the Maine State Legislature "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."

International trade agreements are often unjust and unsustainable. Past trade agreements have had a chilling effect on working class communities in Maine, have allowed corporations to evade environmental policies by shifting jobs and pollution to countries that have weak environmental policies and have resulted in the loss of manufacturing jobs in Maine and the United States.

The Commission provides an ongoing state-level mechanism to assess the impact of international trade policies and agreements on Maine's state and local laws, business environment and working conditions. The Commission has duties that include assessing and monitoring the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; providing a mechanism for citizens and legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; making policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impacts of trade agreements; and establishing and maintaining a communication link between local, state and federal agencies and the public.

For years the Commission has helped shape trade policy through a local perspective on how trade deals impact workers and businesses in Maine. Regular Trade Assessments¹ and communication to decision makers on federal and international trade policy² have played a longstanding and important role in our relationship to trade agreements.

The Citizen's Trade Policy Commission has played an important role in research, education and public awareness on issues related to just trade policies and a fair global economy that respects working people, family farms, our environment and our democracy. For these reasons we request that the Citizen's Trade Policy Commission remain in law and be removed from the language in

LD 2241. We look forward to continuing to work with the Commission on providing the public a greater voice on trade issues.

¹<https://legislature.maine.gov/ctpc-assessments>

²<https://legislature.maine.gov/ctpc-trade-agreement-documents>