

# CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION MEETING

January 8, 2010

## Summary

**Members Attending:** Rep. Margaret Rotundo, Chair; Sen. Troy Jackson, Chair; Rep. Sharon Treat, Sarah Bigney, Paul Volckhausen, Michael Hiltz, Carla Dickstein, Joseph Woodbury, John Palmer, Linda Pistner, John Patrick, Wade Merritt

**Staff Attending:** Judy Gopaul

Representative Rotundo called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

### **Dana Eidsness, Forum on Democracy via conference call:**

Dana Eidsness gave an update on trade and pharmaceutical policy. Appears USTR is using the trade policy to restrict drug pricing regulations. Suggested states take action opposing the use of trade agreements and negotiations to restrict drug pricing programs. The USTR is not a health regulatory authority, has no expertise in public health matters. States should oppose inclusion of pharmaceutical chapters in FTA's; oppose targeting of "reference pricing" programs in any new Trade Promotion Authority Act; and participate in the Special 301 comment process. Every January, USTR solicits comments from all interested parties. States should submit comments opposing the use of Special 301 to restrict foreign pharmaceutical pricing programs.

There is a timetable for submitting comments which she believes is the end of January and will get that information to Curtis immediately. She also arranged for a Special 301 conference call Friday to brief state commissions regarding trade and pharmaceutical policy issues and will forward call-in information to Curtis.

Motion was made to delegate authority to the chairs to draft a letter regarding the Special 301 hearing stating the Commission's position. Seconded; vote, unanimous.

### **Discussion of 2009 Water Resource Report Assessment with William Warren via conference call:**

Discussion followed on the final version of the assessment. Suggestion was made to include an introductory paragraph such as the purpose of the assessment, along with a Table of Contents and web links to each topic.

Rep. Rotundo thanked Mr. Warren on behalf of the State of Maine and commission members for the report and the analysis which was found very informative, eye opening, extremely helpful and much appreciated.

Motion made by Linda Pistner to accept the assessment with the understanding that detailed edits that are suggested could still go forward and if edits result in substantive changes, would have to come back to the commission. Seconded. Vote, unanimous with conditions as noted.

### **Work plan for 2010:**

Linda Pistner reminded members that at the end of the last meeting, a vote was taken for the Commission to continue but there was not a quorum to ratify the vote.

Motion was made to ratify the vote for the Commission to continue and make recommendations to the Legislature. Seconded. Vote, unanimous.

Suggestion was made to have training with the OPLA staff on trade policy. Rep. Rotundo will review with the Governor's advisors.

Members were asked to review today's report and where they want to go it, as well as water extraction issues. Members need to compile topics of interest for future Commission meetings, to include speakers to educate members, communication and to be prepared for full discussion at February's meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Judy will advise members of location.

Meeting adjourned.

/ln