

Sen. Troy Jackson, Chair  
Sen. John Patrick  
Sen. Roger Sherman  
Rep. Sharon Treat, Chair  
Rep. Jeff McCabe  
Rep. Bernard Ayotte

Robert Umphrey  
Stephen Cole  
Michael Herz  
Dr. Joel Kase



John Palmer  
Linda Pistner  
Harry Ricker  
Jay Wadleigh

*Ex-Officio*  
Mike Karagiannes  
Wade Merritt  
Pamela Taylor

*Staff:*  
**Lock Kiermaier**

STATE OF MAINE

## Citizen Trade Policy Commission

---

**PRESS RELEASE:  
PUBLIC HEARING ON  
TRADE POLICY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO MAINE AGRICULTURE  
TO BE HELD ON JUNE 26<sup>th</sup> BY  
THE CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION**

June 19, 2014

The Chairs of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC), Senator Troy Jackson and Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, are inviting members of the public to attend a public hearing which is scheduled for Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM to 5 PM at Room 202, Cross Building in Augusta.

The public hearing will focus on the draft 2014 Assessment that the CTPC has commissioned to assess the potential impacts of the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) from the following perspectives :

1. Farm-to-School and other procurement provisions favoring local food and agriculture; and
2. Agricultural policies including direct and indirect subsidies relevant to Maine such as dairy price supports and tax policies favoring farming easements.

The CTPC has contracted with Ms. Karen Hansen-Kuhn, Director of International Strategies for the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and Mr. John Piotti, President of Maine Farmland Trust to conduct the 2014 Assessment. Ms. Hansen-Kuhn and Mr. Piotti will present a draft version of the 2014 Assessment at the public hearing and will be available during the hearing for discussion about the draft assessment with members of the CTPC and the public. A draft version of the 2014 Assessment will be posted on or around June 20<sup>th</sup> on the CTPC website:

<http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm>

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/opla/citpol.htm>

In commenting upon the importance of the CTPC public hearing, CTPC Chair Senator Troy Jackson stated that "As Co-Chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission, I believe it is our responsibility to help inform members of the Maine public about the critical issues concerning agriculture that are currently being negotiated in the TTIP. From an equally critical perspective, it is crucial that the commission hears from the public about its perspective on these important issues. The upcoming public hearing provides the perfect opportunity for this mutual exchange of information and viewpoints."

CTPC Chair Representative Sharon Anglin Treat also stated that "The U.S. government is negotiating a sweeping comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union nations that, if completed as envisioned, will bind US state and local governments. This trade agreement, known as the TTIP, extends well beyond traditional trade topics and has implications for Maine's policies on agriculture, food procurement programs and agricultural subsidies such as milk pricing which are crucial to the future vitality of Maine's agricultural economy. We invite the public to attend this hearing to learn more about this trade agreement, to react to the 2014 Assessment which has been conducted by a joint effort of national and state experts on agricultural trade policy, and to offer testimony about how the TTIP trade deal could affect agriculture in Maine."

The CTPC expects testimony from a number of prominent governmental, academic and private sources and welcomes other testimony from members of the public. More information about the public hearing can be obtained by e-mailing the CTPC at [ctpc@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:ctpc@legislature.maine.gov).

The CTPC was created by Maine State law in 2003 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." The CTPC is composed of 6 legislators, 7 members from the private sector and 5 representatives of different state agencies.

#### CONTACTS:

Senator Troy Jackson, CTPC Chair: phone 436-0763

Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, CTPC Chair: phone 242-8558

Lock Kiermaier, CTPC Staff: phone 446-0651