

Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair
Sen. Bruce Bryant
Sen. Kevin L. Raye
Rep. John L. Patrick, Chair
Rep. Jeffery A. Gifford
Rep. Sharon Anglin Treat

Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst
Linda Nickerson



Perry Newman
John Palmer
Matt Schlobohm
Paul Volckhausen
Peter N. Connell
Carla Dickstein
Sarah Adams Bigney
Elsie Flemings
Cynthia Phinney
Jane Aiudi
Malcolm Burson
Barbara VanBurgel
Leslie Manning

STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

November 20, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, Contact: Senator Margaret Rotundo (207) 287-1515 or Representative John Patrick (207) 287-1400

Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission to Hold Public Hearing

AUGUSTA – The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission announces that it will seek public input on international trade agreements at a public hearing on **December 4th, 2008** at Husson College, Libra Lecture Hall, Bangor beginning at **6:00 p.m.** This hearing is the latest in a series of public hearings around the State held by the commission to get input from citizens about how international trade agreements are impacting their lives.

While international trade agreements are negotiated at the federal level, public input can and does have an affect on what happens in Washington. “This forum not only allows the Commission to get input from the public but also allows those affected by trade to have a direct conversation with policy makers at the state and federal level,” said Lewiston State Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair of the Commission. “Even though the ability to enter into international trade agreements rests solely with the federal government, that doesn’t mean Maine doesn’t have a voice in their creation. Because of the Commission’s work we now have an open dialogue with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and Maine’s Congressional Delegation, and we are in the unique position of being able to share the concerns and ideas

expressed by Maine's citizens with them," said Representative John Patrick, House Chair of the Commission.

At the public hearing, the Commission will ask attendees to speak about their experiences, both positive and negative, regarding the impact of international trade agreements, and hopes that participants will be able to provide specific examples about the local benefits and down-sides of trade agreements on business, labor, healthcare, the environment and municipal governance. Written comments can be submitted as well. The Commission has begun to work with other New England Legislatures to increase awareness of the need for states to have input as trade agreements are negotiated.

The Citizens Trade Policy Commission is a non-partisan commission which was established by the Legislature in May of 2004 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 commission consists of 17 voting members representing a broad spectrum of interested parties and five nonvoting members from five state governmental departments.

Public Hearing Location:

Husson College

Libra Lecture Hall

Bangor, Maine

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Phone No.: 207. 941-7000

For more information about the commission's work and for directions to Libra Electra Hall at Husson College, please visit: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm>