

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

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Mike Karagiannes
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Staff:
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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

May 15, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders,

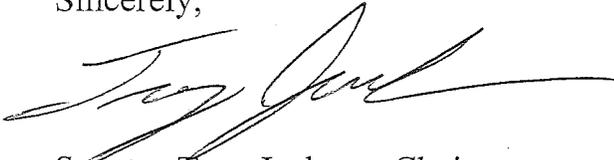
The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC) "... is established to assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements." In seeking to fulfill its statutory mandate, the Commission voted unanimously during its meeting of April 26, 2013 to submit this letter to you indicating our strong support for third year appropriation for the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) program within the US Small Business Administration.

During our most recent meeting on April 26, 2013, the CTPC received a presentation from MITC our state trade office about various activities to promote international trade for the State of Maine. It is our understanding that funds from

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>

the STEP program have been used to effectively assist small Maine businesses in the costs incurred to promote the exporting of their products. Most recently, MITC used \$80,000 from the SBA competitive grants program to support 40 Maine companies to export business valued at approximately \$16 million dollars. In view of the apparent success of the MITC in using limited grant funds to effectively assist small businesses in Maine with the vital task of promoting and furthering international trade, the CTPC strongly supports the STEP program and urges its continued funding.

Sincerely,



Senator Troy Jackson, Chair



Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, Chair

cc:

Senator Susan Collins

Senator Angus King

Representative Michael Michaud

Representative Chellie Pingree