

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday 20th June 2008, 10:00 A.M.
Transportation Committee Room, Augusta

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Rep. John Patrick, House Chair, Sen. Kevin Raye, Representative Sharon Treat, Elise Flemings, Michael Burson, Leslie Manning, John Palmer, Linda Pistner, Sarah Bigney, Paul Volckhausen, Perry Newman, and Matt Schlobohm.

Staff Present: Judy Gopaul

I Presentation by Guest Speakers:

A. Brian Crowley. Mr. Crowley is the founding President of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), Atlantic Canada's public policy think tank. Dr. Crowley spoke about the concept of Atlantica and the economic benefits it would have for Maine. He stated that the key to diversifying the region's markets and promote economic growth is to improve the transportation infrastructure through southern New Brunswick and through Maine to the other New England states.

To read Dr. Crowley's presentation (and to view the slides) before the Citizen Trade Policy Commission on June 20th, 2008, please go to the following websites:

Blurb- <http://www.aims.ca/aimslibrary.asp?ft=3&id=2198>;

Talk- <http://www.aims.ca/library/AtlanticaAugusta.pdf>

Slide- <http://www.aims.ca/library/AtlanticaAugustaSlides.pdf>

B. Leo Broderick. Mr. Broderick is the Vice-Chair of Council of Canadians and is a community activist, past president of the PEI Teachers' Federation and former vice-president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Mr. Broderick emphasized that Scott Sinclair,* one of Canada's top trade analyst, opined in his analysis of Atlantica, that it would be implausible – “an unwise idea” and have serious detrimental effects on the environment and Atlantic Canada. Mr. Broderick added that the proposed transportation corridor would have little economic benefit outside of Halifax.

Mr. Broderick stated that Atlantica only attempts to create a super port in Halifax (Nova Scotia) as the major port of entry for imports from India and China. From there, imports would be transported to the heartland of the United States, with Maine being simply a pass-through. He stated that Atlantica is at the forefront of this endeavor, and that the Canadian government has appropriated \$2.1 billion (Cnd) for the gateway proposal. He also stated that a similar scheme, “Pacifica,” was also being promoted on the west coast (Canadian) ports. These ports were already making improvements to increase their capacity. Also, the expansion of the Panama Canal is already well underway. Mr. Broderick stated that a study conducted by CIBC World Market Inc. found that

globalization is in reverse because of high energy prices. The study also stated that there would be fewer and fewer container ships bringing goods from China and India, and there will be a resurgence of more factories along the American Mexico border. Atlantica is not a feasible project, and any the potential benefit may only be realised in Asia.

*Scott Sinclair's analysis, *Atlantica, Myths and Reality* can be found at:
http://www.policyalternatives.ca/documents/National_Office_Pubs/2007/Atlantica.pdf

II Set Dates for Regional and public meetings and commission workshop:

The commission members were given possible dates for the Regional Northeastern States Meeting – (September 11,12, 13, 18, 19, 20). The commission suggested that the next public hearing might be held between October 1- 15, 2008, so that the four congressional delegates could participate in a round table discussion. Staff is to inquire from the delegates whether they would be able to participate in such a forum and to provide the commission with dates that would be convenient to the delegates. Bangor has been suggested as a possible venue for the next public hearing. The commission was asked to submit possible dates in September for the commission discussion/workshop on the strategic direction of the commission.

III International Water Trade - Kennebunk/Nestle Agreement

William Warren, Georgetown University School of Law, provided the commission with an analysis of the issues. Mr. Warren discussed the Kennebunk Nestle proposed agreement and the implications of such an agreement on trade, in particular on whether the GATS agreement would have an impact on water policy generally. A transcript of Mr. Warren's discussion will be available on the CTPC website.

A copy of the Kennebunk/Nestle agreement was provided to the commission. For more information on water trade issues please visit: Forum on Democracy and Trade at: <http://www.forumdemocracy.net/article.php?list=type&type=120>

IV *Removing WTO Barriers to Our Climate Change Solutions* - Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch June 19th, 2008 tele-conference. During the tele-conference, Todd Tucker, Research Director, of Global Trade Watch, raised the question of how do WTO rules limit state and federal climate policy and what can be done about it. Tucker discussed state climate initiatives, possible WTO threats to these important innovations, and how state officials can safeguard their policy-making authority. He also stressed that states should collaborate and build consensus on climate control policies and protection and to continue to put pressure on the federal government to make the necessary changes. For more information on this topic please visit: <http://www.citizen.org/documents/PresidentialWTOreport.pdf>. The report is titled *Presidential Candidates' Key Proposals on Health Care and Climate Will Require WTO Modifications Overreach of WTO Highlighted by Potential Conflicts with Candidates' Non-Trade Proposals*.

V Other Comments:

1. The Commission's June 16 2006 GATS letter was updated and was sent out on June 2, 2008. A copy of this letter has been uploaded to the commission's website.
2. Linda Pistner will present her analysis to the commission on whether the Maine's Administrative Procedure Act meets the new transparency obligations proposed by the Chairman's fourth draft of proposed disciplines under GATS, at the July 18, 2008, CTPC meeting.

VI Invitation:

The commission was invited to participate in a conference call on GATS Domestic Regulations on July 15, 2008.

VII Next Meeting: Will be held on July 18, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. in the Transportation Committee Room #126.

VIII Audio Presentation Available: Audio file of Dr. Crowley's, Mr. Broderick's, and William Warrens' presentation will be available on the CTPC website.

IX Website Video Available : This meeting was video taped by Martha Spiess and is available at www.maineairtrade.org. The top line June 20 link is the William Warren phone assessment to the commission

X Adjournment: The commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:45 pm