

**Testimony of Rep. Sharon Anglin Treat**  
**In support of LD 1151, "An Act Regarding the Administration and Financial**  
**Transparency of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission"**

**Labor, Commerce & Economic Development Committee**  
**April 8, 2013**

I am here today as the new House Chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission to stand with the past House and Senate Chairs of both parties to support this needed legislation.

It would be hard to imagine a subject that is more complicated and harder to influence, while at the same time being more pervasive in our lives, than trade policy. Not only do modern treaties affect tariffs and traditional trade policies that may determine if a company like New Balance will continue to operate factories in Maine employing hundreds of people, but they also affect policies we enact and implement at the state level and in this Legislature ranging from insurance laws, tobacco regulation, MaineCare prescription drug purchasing, wind energy and mining, land use planning and water policy (see attachment listing recent NAFTA cases for some idea of the potential impact of these treaties).

This bill modifies the law governing the Citizen Trade Policy Commission to help insure that the CTPC has consistent staffing and sufficient resources to commission the legal or policy research we may need to understand these complex issues, to hold the public hearings we are mandated to have, and which provide us with needed direction as well as educate the public about these important issues; and to allow members to meet with the US Trade Representative or other officials when such meetings may help make sure that these trade policies support, rather than undermine our laws or our economy. Thank you for your consideration.