

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

September 11, 2009

Transportation Committee Room, Augusta

9:00 A.M.

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Troy Jackson, Rep. Margaret Rotundo, Sen. Roger Sherman, Rep. Jeffery Gifford, Rep. Sharon Treat, Cynthia Phinney, Leslie Manning, Linda Pistner, Joseph Woodbury, Michael Herz, John Palmer and Sarah Bigney.

Water Resource Planning Committee members present: Robert Marvinney (Maine Geological Survey), Jim Wilfong (H2O for Maine), David Bell (Maine Agricultural Council), Tom Brennan (Nestle), Marcia Spencer-Famous (LURC), Tim Hobbs (Maine Potato Board), Jeff McNelly (Maine Water Utilities Assoc.), Steve Timpano (IFW), Liz Hertz (SPO), John Hopeck (DEP).

Office of the Attorney General: Paul Gauvreau and Peggy Bensinger

Guests: William Ware (Forum on Democracy and Trade by conference call) and Carol White, Maine consulting geologist

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst

1. Introductions

2. Presentations: (Documents presented at the meeting are available on the CTPC's webpage)

- o Background on Maine's groundwater resources and regulations given by Carol White and Bob Marvinney;
- o Background on international trade agreements given by Sarah Bigney;
- o Legal review of Maine's groundwater regulation and groundwater ownership given by Paul Gauvreau and Peggy Bensinger; and
- o Preliminary report on water policy and international trade agreements given by William Ware

3. Public hearing plan discussion: Modify plan to limit speakers to 3 minutes and keep questions to a minimum to ensure everyone gets a chance to speak. Have a box at the public hearing that people can put written testimony in if they don't want to speak or if they have comments about groundwater issues they want to submit to the Natural Resources Committee. Ground rules for the hearing should be publicized well in advance. The scope of the hearing should be limited to two areas: 1) whether or not a change in groundwater ownership would better protect the state against claims under

international trade agreements; and 2) whether or not the State's police power to regulate groundwater could be compromised by international trade agreements, and if so, what should be done to avoid it.

4. **Columbia Free Trade Agreement:** Commission agreed to resubmit its February 21, 2008 letter to USTR regarding the proposed Columbian FTA as discussion on this agreement may be pending.
5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30PM.