

## **Maine International Trade Center meeting with Ambassador Kirk on August 5, 2010**

CTPC members in attendance: Rep. Rotundo, Paul Volckhausen, Sarah Bigney, Wade Merritt and Michael Hiltz. Others in attendance: Janine Bisailon-Cary, Dana Eidsness, Jeffery Porter (U.S. Export Assistance Center), Perry Newman and four other participants

Rep. Rotundo gave a brief introduction of the commission and its activities.

Ambassador Kirk statements:

- USTR wants to have more dialogue with local groups and all sides of the debate.
- The current global economic circumstances is good for trade and is a way out of hard economic times without raising taxes
- On this trip to various states he is looking to find common ground between those who are pro trade and those who have concerns about certain aspects of trade agreements
- USTR wants to resolve issues with the Panama/Columbia/Korean trade agreements so they can be finished soon. In the future USTR will work on TTP.
- Ambassador Kirk stated that by federal law, USTR cannot enter into a trade agreement that gives foreign investors special rights over U.S. investors. He didn't understand the concerns people have with investor provisions giving foreign investors "special rights." Members of the commission followed up on his answer trying to focus on the ability of foreign investors to have disputes tried before tribunals outside of U.S. law but the Ambassador did not respond directly to that point.
- Ambassador Kirk has added a number of healthcare advocates to his advisory groups to make sure health care issues are not overlooked.
- Ambassador Kirk will look into how members get appointed to IQPAC and said state consultation is the best way for states to communicate with USTR.
- Ambassador Kirk said he would continue to improve the trade model to address concerns.