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Sen. John Patrick
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Rep. Sharon Treat, Chair
Rep. Jeff McCabe
Rep. Bernard Ayotte

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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

May 7, 2013

Speaker Mark W. Eves, Chair
President Justin L. Alford, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
126th Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0115

Dear Speaker Eves, President Alford and Members of the Legislative Council,

As you know, 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." [10 MRSA §11(3)] 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 concerns regarding a resolution currently tabled in the House.

During our April 26th meeting, CTPC member Representative Jeff McCabe asked the commission to review the wording and contents of a proposed Resolution titled "Joint Resolution Affirming the Friendship between the State of Maine and the Republic of China". Representative McCabe noted that this Resolution includes language which supports Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization and the TransPacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA). Representative McCabe indicated his significant concerns about the appropriateness of these

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various endorsements and pointed out that most of these issues have been reviewed by the CTPC which is the entity created by the Legislature specifically for the review of international trade agreements. To the extent that the TPPA has been reviewed, the CTPC has raised various concerns which are detailed in our 2012 Assessment which can be viewed at the CTPC website:

<http://maine.gov/legis/opla/CTPC2012finalassessment.pdf>

After discussion, the CTPC unanimously endorsed a motion to send you this letter indicating the commission's significant concerns regarding the legislative approval of these endorsements which have not been properly reviewed in any detail by the CTPC or any legislative policy committee.

In closing, we strongly urge you and all members of the Legislature to consider amending the proposed Resolution to omit all endorsements of any participation of the Republic of China in all international trade agreements until such a time that the CTPC and other legislative policy committees can properly review and vet any such endorsement by the Maine State Legislature.

Sincerely,



Senator Troy Jackson, Chair



Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, Chair