

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Friday, September 30, 2005**

State House, Room 126, Augusta

## **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Cynthia Phinney, Mary Ellen Johnston, Elizabeth Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Peter Connell, Dr. Robert Weiss, Paul Volckhausen, Mark Haggerty and Wade Merritt (on behalf of Richard Coyle).

**Members absent:** Sen. Kevin Raye, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Barbara Van Burgel, James Wilfong, Matt Schlobohm, Bjorn Claeson, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle, Carla Dickstein

**Staff present:** Curtis Bentley and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analysts

### **I. Introductions**

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

### **II. Commission Work Session**

#### **Annual Report and Assessment**

The Commission reviewed a draft of its annual report and assessment with staff. The Commission received comments from the Forum on Democracy and Trade on the three subcommittee assessments. Subcommittees agreed to meet in the afternoon to review these comments and develop a final draft.

Action items:

- Subcommittees agreed to email any changes to the draft subcommittee assessments to staff by October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Staff agreed to have a final draft of the Commission's report and assessment at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting
- The Commission directed staff to draft an executive summary for the report.

#### **Scheduling the Next Commission Meeting**

Staff informed the Commission that a representative from USTR was available to meet with the Commission on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-10:00. Commission members discussed the format and content of the meeting. Given the short time frame USTR will be available, the Commission agreed to prepare a limited number of questions in advance and to focus its discussion primarily on the USTR's consultation process. The Commission agreed to have the chairs start the meeting with brief history of the Commission and why USTR was invited to the meeting and give a statement regarding the inadequacy of the consultation process between USTR and the states. Commission members reviewed a list of questions for USTR it had generated last May and decided to use four questions from that list regarding the

consultation process and generate two additional questions on the upcoming Hong Kong round of negotiations on GATS and the recent decision on the Methanex case.

Action items:

- The Commission directed staff to send an invitation to the Congressional delegation to attend the USTR briefing on October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Commission member Liz Wyman agreed to draft a final list of questions for USTR
- Staff agreed to email the final list of questions to the Commission

#### Workplan for the Next Year

The Commission received a telephone briefing from Peter Riggs, Executive Director of the Forum on Democracy and Trade. Mr. Riggs identified the following five areas the Commission could potentially focus its work on over the next year:

- Healthcare pharmaceuticals – Dirigo choice
- Agriculture – milk subsidies
- Domestic Regulation on GATS – professional license requirements issues
- Methanex – codify decision
- Softwood Lumber Case in Canada

The Commission discussed its overall agenda for the next year and agreed it needed additional time to fully consider its options. It was suggested that over the next year the Commission try to join with other states as one voice to become more successful in negotiating with the USTR. It was also pointed out that NAG and the NCSL working groups may be good facilitators for working with other states. The Chairs agreed to move the discussion to the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission also discussed receiving a briefing from a representative of the AFL-CIO at its November meeting. Commission member Cynthia Phinney agreed to work with staff on securing a speaker and a date for the meeting.

#### **III. Sub-committee Work Session**

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to review the Commission's draft report and assessment. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

#### **IV. Adjournment.**

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 3:00PM