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*Working together for social, economic & environmental justice in trade policy.*

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## *MEDIA ADVISORY*

# **MAINE WITHDRAWS FROM GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT DEALS IN NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS**

**Will Conduct Case-by-Case Review of Trade Agreements with Morocco, the countries of the Central American Common Market, the South African Customs Union, and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas**

## **MAINE FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN HOLDS PRESS BRIEFING**

**WHAT:** Press briefing on the government procurement rules in the new trade agreements and why Maine is withdrawing its authorization to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to offer access to Maine's government procurement market in the trade agreements under negotiation.

**WHEN:** Thursday, 11:30 AM.

**WHERE:** Conference Room 107, Burton M. Cross Building, Augusta

**WHO:** Members of the Maine Fair Trade Campaign.

**WHY:** On request by the Maine Fair Trade Campaign, Governor Baldacci has rescinded his earlier offer to the USTR to open Maine's government purchasing market to international competition in accordance with procurement rules in new trade agreements under negotiation. These procurement rules allow foreign corporations seeking access to Maine's government procurement market to request their host countries to challenge Maine's government purchasing policies that seek to promote local economic development, environmental responsibility, or fair labor standards as illegal barriers to trade.

**Full press packages available at the press briefing, including:**

- MFTC analysis of impact of trade procurement rules on Maine government procurement policies.
- Governor Baldacci retraction letter to Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick.
- Wall Street Journal article about other Governors who have withdrawn authorization to USTR to offer access to their state procurement markets in trade negotiations.

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