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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

March 6, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk
Trade Ambassador
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission "... 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." In seeking to fulfill its statutory mandate, the Commission voted unanimously during its meeting of February 10, 2012 to submit this letter to you urging your support for significant changes in the process used to negotiate and accept foreign trade policy agreements such as, but not limited to, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).

Maine has traditionally supported international trade when fair rules of trade are in place. As do other states, Maine intends to be an active participant in the global economy. From the Commission's perspective, the current process used to inform, negotiate and accept the provisions of a foreign trade treaty like the TPPA is in need of significant improvement.

Specifically, the Commission remains concerned that recent international trade agreements may have a negative impact on the State's constitutionally guaranteed authority to protect not only the public health, safety and welfare, but also

regulatory authority. The Commission believes this situation has occurred in large part because the process used to formulate United States trade policy lacks transparency, fails to properly recognize the principles of state sovereignty and is bereft of any meaningful opportunity for Congressional review and acceptance. The current process minimizes the opportunity for meaningful input and review, and the Commission suggests there should be an opportunity for process change with significant improvements in transparency and participation.

Please contact us with any questions that you may have regarding the Commission's position on these issues.

Sincerely,


Senator Roger L. Sherman, Chair


Representative Joyce Maker, Chair

Cc: Governor Paul R. Lepage
Senator Olympia J. Snowe
Senator Susan M. Collins
Representative Michael H. Michaud
Representative Chellie Pingree
State Representative Sharon Treat