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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

November 27, 2013

Senator Angus S. King, Jr.
359 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on Friday, November 15, 2013 to discuss various current topics surrounding international trade treaties. In particular, we appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and exchange viewpoints and information on the TransPacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and the President's "Fast Track" proposal.

We also appreciate your strong advocacy for retaining the footwear tariffs in the TPP that will be necessary to retain approximately 900 textile jobs in the state. Your efforts on this issue will be crucial to ensuring that these footwear jobs will be saved in communities like Norridgewock and Skowhegan.

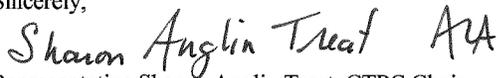
In addition, we would like to reiterate the importance of the specific issues that we discussed and the recent positions taken by the Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC):

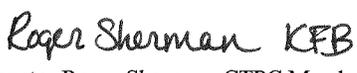
- We strongly support the "carve out" of tobacco health measures from the TPP;
- We are in favor of ensuring that prescription pharmaceuticals are affordable and accessible to member nations of the TPP;
- We believe that the TPP should support and allow for strong federal, state and local regulations and laws that protect the environment and public safety;
- We have serious reservations about the use of Investor-State Dispute Resolution (ISDS) arbitration tribunals in the TPP and the profound threat that these tribunals represent to our national sovereignty; and
- We also object to the current USTR proposal for "Fast Track" authority as a means of expediting congressional approval of the TPP and other similar Free Trade Agreements and maintain that the current process needs to be changed to allow for much greater transparency and participation for Congress to adequately fulfill its constitutional responsibility to review and approve international trade treaties.

In closing, we also wish to emphasize the challenging set of decisions that will be involved for you and other members of Maine's congressional delegation in approving whatever "Fast Track" proposal is finally submitted by President Obama and then, separately, the merits of approving the final negotiated provisions of the TPP.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us or CTPC Chair Senator Troy Jackson with any questions about these and other topics regarding international trade treaties and their effect upon the State of Maine.

Sincerely,


Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, CTPC Chair,


Senator Roger Sherman, CTPC Member and Past Chair

c.c.

CTPC Chair Senator Troy Jackson
CTPC members
Marge Kilkelly, Senior Policy Advisor
Chris Rector, Regional Representative

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