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STATE OF MAINE

## Citizen Trade Policy Commission

October 11, 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission Seeking Public Input on International Trade**

The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission will hold a public hearing at Washington County Community College in Calais on Thursday, November 3, The hearing will begin at 6pm and is expected to run until 9pm.

Maine businesses and employees are impacted by international trade. The public hearing on Thursday, November 3 will provide a forum for public testimony regarding the impacts of international trade and international trade agreements on Maine's markets and labor for agricultural goods, manufactured goods and services. The Commission is also seeking information on local experience with Trade Adjustment Assistance.

"International Trade is an important part of our economy and it is important that Maine citizens have the opportunity to voice their opinions and share their experiences with policy-makers. This is their opportunity to do just that. While international trade agreements are negotiated on the federal level, our Commission has a strong relationship with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) who is party to those agreements," said Representative Joyce Maker, one of the Chairs of the Commission.

"The Citizen Trade Policy Commission also stays in regular contact with Maine's congressional delegation and Maine's representative on the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee of the USTR, Rep. Sharon Treat. Through our connections, the Commission can share Maine citizens' concerns and ideas with those drafting the trade and other bilateral agreements. We hope the people of Maine will take advantage of this public hearing," added Senator Sherman who is also a Chair of the Commission.

The hearing is on Thursday, November 3, 2011 in Calais at 6pm. The hearing is open to the public and all are welcome to attend and testify.

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The Citizens Trade Policy Commission is an non-partisan commission established by the Legislature in May of 2004 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. The commission consists of 17 voting members representing a broad spectrum of interested parties and five nonvoting members from five state governmental departments. For more information on the Citizen Trade Policy Commission, please visit its website: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm>.

**Public Hearing Location:**

St. Croix Hall, Lecture Hall  
Washington County Community College  
One College Drive  
Calais, Maine 04619  
Start Time – 6pm.  
Estimated End Time – 9pm

For more information, Contact: Senator Roger Sherman at (207) 532-7073 or Representative Joyce Maker at (207) 454 - 2327.

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