

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Friday, January 5, 2007

Room 126, State House, Augusta

10:30 AM meeting of the subcommittees

1 PM meeting of the full Commission

Meeting Summary

Members present: Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Sharon Treat, Malcolm Burson, Peter Connell, Leslie Manning, Wade Merritt, Cynthia Phinney, Linda Pistner, Matt Schlobohm and Paul Volckhausen.

Staff present: Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst, and Alison Ames, Legislative Researcher.

Full Commission convenes 1:00 PM

I. Report back from subcommittees' 10:30 a.m. meetings.

The Natural resources subcommittee reviewed the natural resources assessment section and discussed that without representation on the Agriculture committee, Maine was basically without any leverage to affect the recommendations of the assessment.

The Labor/economic development subcommittee had the following suggestions:

- ◆ raise labor and environmental standards within all legislation going forward;
- ◆ look at the impact of global warming on the Maine economy;
- ◆ determine the impact on Maine workers when non-Maine-based businesses don't comply with Maine workers compensation standards;
- ◆ fill the CPTC vacancy with an employer with less than 24 employees; and
- ◆ get an update on the Illinois/Sudan lawsuit.

The Labor/economic development subcommittee also identified the following potential speakers:

- ◆ John Dorrer, Maine Dept. of Labor—how trade is impacting labor;
- ◆ Alan Tonelson;
- ◆ Congressman Mike Michaud or his chief of staff, Peter Chandler—game plan for fast track; and
- ◆ John Richardson—prior to his confirmation hearing as new director for DECD.

The Health care subcommittee has concerns about the general description of Dirigo in the assessment. Linda Pistner agreed to work with Peter Riggs to get a more accurate description of Dirigo.

II. Staffing during legislative session. Rep. Patrick informed the Commission that Office of Policy and Legal Analysis staffer, Curtis Bentley would only be available to help the CTPC with drafting and legal issues while the Legislature is in session and would return to his CTPC assignment during the interim. Alison Ames, OPLA Legislative Researcher is available to assist CTPC during the session. Staff provided a draft of legislation that would change the frequency of CTPC assessment to a biennial assessment and remove OPLA staffing responsibilities while the Legislature is in session and require agencies with representation on the Commission to provide staffing during that time.

Malcolm Burson indicated DEP did not have the resources to be able to pick up staffing responsibilities for the CTPC during the legislative session. Other members discussed the issues of revolving staff without a consistent staff person. Sen. Bryant made a motion to create a full time staff person plus \$50,000 for all other. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. Review, discussion and adoption of final draft assessment. Peter Riggs provided a brief overview of the assessment. Linda Pistner provided clarification that the Dirigo program is more than just an insurance program—it also includes a bundle of services. Peter Riggs said a state has a right to make a request to USTR to be carved out of an agreement. When questioned about how to craft legislation that would be less likely to be challenged or easier to defend, Peter Riggs suggested using GATS ART. 20 general exceptions language in the legislation itself.

IV. Discussion about how to publicly present the assessment on 17 January. Peter Riggs will be a guest speaker at a dinner for legislators on the southern bus tour in Portland at USM on Jan. 17, 2007. CTPC decided that would be a good opportunity to roll-out the assessment. Leslie Manning volunteered Adam Fisher from the Dept. of Labor to assist with the public relations effort and to contact newspapers (KJ. Portland Press Herald, Lewiston Sun, and Bangor Daily News) and radio stations (MPBN, WMPG and WERU) that could help publicize the event. CPTC members will put together a flyer for the event and Peter Riggs will prepare a brief overview of CTPC and a quick summary of the Forum's assessment.

V. Approval of assessment. Matt Schlobohm made a motion to accept the Assessment with the minor language changes to the Health Care section concerning the Dirigo program discussed by the Commission. Sen. Bryant seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Report back by Sen. Rotundo and Rep. Patrick on global trade conference – fast track; what other states are doing. Sen. Rotundo and Rep. Patrick referred to the model fast track resolution included in the States' Rights and International Trade report put out by Public Citizen and distributed at the CPTC meeting. All states were encouraged to adopt the model resolution and adapt it to make it more specific to their own state. Sen. Treat, Matt Schlobohm and Linda Pistner agreed to work

together to construct a Maine specific draft, with Rep. Treat as the point person. They would then send their work on to OPLA to complete the draft resolution.

VII. Discussion of potential guest. Peter Connell will continue to explore dates and times with Alan Tonelson (possibly April) and report back possible dates at the next meeting. Cynthia Phinney mentioned that there might be some funding from the Labor Council and some from UM to help defray costs of Alan's visit.

VIII. Discussion of public hearing in Presque Isle. The CTPC briefly discussed the compelling testimony heard at the public hearing and offered suggestions about how the testimony could best be used. The commission agreed that pictures, snippets and some videotaping could create a powerful piece whether for a printed brochure or for the website. Sarah Laskowski, an intern to the CPTC from USM will review existing documentation of the testimony and create a mechanism to share the real stories and the personal impact on Maine workers heard by the CTPC at the public hearings.

IX. Set next meeting dates and agenda items.

Mon., 12 Feb. 2007:

Draft Agenda Items

Update on Alan Tonelson.....Peter Connell

Revised fast track resolution.....Rep. Treat

Commission legislation strategy.....CTPC discussion

Review of Peter Riggs's visit.....CTPC discussion

Subcommittee work on implementing the assessment recommendations.....CTPC

discussion

Availability briefing (either in person or conference call) with Trade Legislative

Aides (Peter Chandler)...Alison Ames

Update on fast track from Lori Wallach.....Matt Schlobohm

Suggestions for new members.....CTPC discussion

Update on the compilation of public hearing information.....Sarah Laskowski

Fri., 2 Mar. 2007

Draft Agenda Items

Presentation by Michael Younus, a Modular Home Manufacturers of the Northeast.....Peter Connell

XI. Adjournment.

- The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 4:00 PM.

OPLA Action items

- Send contact list to Members
- Determine Congressional delegation trade legislative aides schedule in Maine and explore possible CTPC attendance or conference call