

Sen. Troy Jackson, Chair  
Sen. John Patrick  
Sen. Roger Sherman  
Rep. Sharon Treat, Chair  
Rep. Jeff McCabe  
Rep. Bernard Ayotte

Robert Umphrey  
Stephen Cole  
Michael Herz  
Dr. Joel Kase



Mike Karagiannes  
Wade Merritt  
John Palmer  
Linda Pistner  
Harry Ricker  
Jay Wadleigh

Staff:  
Lock Kiermaier

STATE OF MAINE

## Citizen Trade Policy Commission

---

May 7, 2013

Secretary Janet Napolitano  
Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC) "... 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 April 26, 2013 to submit this letter to you indicating our strong opposition to any proposal from the Department of Homeland Security to impose a border-crossing fee to Canadians crossing the borders to the United States.

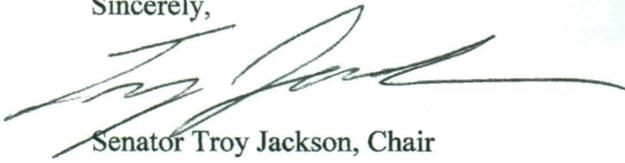
During our April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the CTPC heard a presentation from Mr. Daniel Deveau, Maine Canadian Trade Ombudsman for the State of Maine, in which he described a recent controversial proposal from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to impose a fee on Canadians crossing the border into the U.S. either by foot or vehicle. In the course of the discussion on this issue, members of the CTPC heard and exchanged information which suggested that the imposition of such a fee would be significantly detrimental to free flowing trade between Canada and the U.S. and would result in a deterioration of the close community relationships that currently exist between the residents of northern Maine and the bordering Canadian provinces. A motion was unanimously approved to send a letter you stating the CTPC's formal opposition to such a fee for the reasons enumerated above.

Along with our neighboring Canadian provinces, which include New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec, the CTPC and the State of Maine in general has worked diligently to promote and encourage trade between our two countries. The encouragement of increased trade necessarily leads to further economic development for both countries as well as preserving the close cultural and community ties and relationships that have historically existed between Maine and its Canadian neighbors for many years. Without reservation, we believe that the imposition of any proposed border-crossing fee as described by Mr. Deveau and detailed in numerous media reports, would significantly impair

Citizen Trade Policy Commission  
c/o Office of Policy & Legal Analysis  
State House Station #13, Augusta, ME 04333-0013 Telephone: 207 287-1670  
<http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/citpol.htm>

ongoing efforts towards economic development and the cordial relationship the State of Maine currently has with its Canadian provincial neighbors. We urge you to drop any form of this proposal and to constantly strive for a border-crossing process which maintains mutual security between our two countries while at the same time promoting further economic development and our historically close relationship.

Sincerely,



Senator Troy Jackson, Chair



Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, Chair

c.c. Daniel Deveau, Maine Canadian Trade Ombudsman  
Governor Paul LePage  
Senator Susan Collins  
Senator Angus King  
Representative Michael Michaud  
Representative Chellie Pingree  
Demetrios Marantis, Acting USTR