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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

October 29, 2014

The Honorable João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador, European Union
2175 K Street,
NW, Washington, DC 20037

Re: Questions emanating from:

2014 TRADE POLICY ASSESSMENT

Prepared for the Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Maine Agriculture and Food Systems in the
Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

by Karen Hansen-Kuhn, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and
John Piotti, Maine Farmland Trust

July 2014

<http://maine.gov/legis/opla/2014%20Final%20Assessment.pdf>.

Dear Ambassador Vale de Almeida:

The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC) is established in Maine State Law “..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 October 7, 2014 to submit this letter to you respectfully requesting information about a certain agricultural trade topic in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This request emanates from the 2014 Assessment that the CTPC commissioned earlier this year; this Assessment can be read in its entirety at the CTPC website which is referenced at the beginning of this letter.

This request for information is based on one of the questions raised by the authors of the 2014 Assessment. This particular question is conveniently summarized in the Executive Summary on page 2 of that document and can be paraphrased as:

Please provide a list of the specific Geographical Indications protections sought by the EU in the current TTIP negotiations.

Our interest in obtaining this information is based on our concerns about ensuring adequate protections for geographical Indications which are unique to the State of Maine such as Maine Lobster. In a letter dated October 17, 2014, we have also made a similar request to USTR Ambassador Michael Froman.

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>

We welcome any questions that you may have about this request and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Senator Troy Jackson, Chair ^{SH}


Representative Sharon Anglin Treat, Chair ^{SH}

cc:

USTR Ambassador Michael Froman

Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Trade

Senator Susan Collins

Senator Angus King

Representative Michael Michaud

Representative Chellie Pingree

Senator Eloise Vitelli, Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Representative James Dill, Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry