

## **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2008**

**Room 206 CSOB, Augusta**

**9:00 A.M.**

### **AGENDA**

#### **Full commission convenes at 9:00 AM (ACF Committee Room, Room 206)**

- **Discussion and Vote:** Commission's response to the Columbia Free Trade Agreement. (Copy of letter attached)
- **Discussion:** "Lead in toys and consumer products from China." Attached is a summary of the analysis by Forum on Democracy & Trade. The analysis focuses on Maryland because that's where the World Trade Organization's (WTO) complaint was directed.
- **Discussion:** "Atlantica"
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- **Invitation:** The New Hampshire Citizen Trade Commission has extended an invitation to the members of the Maine CTPC to attend their meeting/discussion on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Concord, N.H. The guest speaker for this event will be Ms. Maude Barlow is the National Chair of the Council of Canadians. This organization is a well-known Canadian NGO focused on various trade and development issues. **Maine Event** is on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, For more information: <http://www.defendingwaterinmaine.org/symposium.html>
- **Discussion:** Reformation of subcommittees.
- **Update:** LD 2096 – Trade Bill - An Act Regarding International Trade Agreements.
- **Report:** Summary of Public Hearing testimonies. Minutes of last general meeting. Attached.

- **Discussion: Next Public Hearing** - Venue, Date and Time; Invitations/Guest Speakers.
- **Set Agenda Items:** Next general meeting is on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 9:00 A.M.

### **ADDENDUM TO AGENDA MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2008**

- **Discussion:** “Atlantica” proposal.

**Note:** It is the name given to a proposed “border-free” plan that would create an integrated cross-border economic region that encompasses (Newfoundland, P.E.I., Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), eastern Quebec, and the New England states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and of Northern New York. The proposal was made by the Atlantic Provinces Chamber of Commerce and the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies; Atlantica is part of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, which aims to create a common market to integrate the Canada's East Coast with the northeastern United States;

Proponents say that "the removal of barriers and harmonization of regulations" will provide corporations with more privileges than those they already enjoy with NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement). The plan would erase border restrictions and regulations and create a huge transportation corridor to send Asian goods and energy resources to the United States. (Maude Barlow, national chairwoman for the Council of Canada, spoke on this topic in 2007 at Dalhousie University in Halifax N.S.)