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STATE OF MAINE

## Citizen Trade Policy Commission

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**PRESS RELEASE:  
PUBLIC HEARING ON  
THE TRANSPACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
AND OTHER TRADE TOPICS  
TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 BY  
THE CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION**

Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission (CTPC) will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, September 24, 2015 in Room 208 of the Cross Office Building in Augusta, Me. from 1 to 3 PM.

The primary focus of this public hearing is to gather public comment and testimony regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) which is currently being negotiated by the U.S. and a number of other Pacific Rim nations. In addition, the CTPC welcomes testimony on other trade-related topics, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which is also currently being negotiated by the U.S. and member nations of the European Union.

In commenting upon the importance of the CTPC public hearing, CTPC Chair Senator Amy Volk stated that "As Co-Chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission, I believe it is vitally important for the commission to provide ample opportunity for Maine citizens to make public comments about free trade agreements like the TPP which will have a significant effect on Maine's economy and the manner in which trade between Maine businesses and foreign nations can be increased without sacrificing necessary safeguards regarding standards of public safety, health and governmental sovereignty."

CTPC Chair Representative Robert Saucier also stated that "The CTPC is intent on carrying through its mission to monitor the progress and content of the various free trade agreements like the TPP which are currently under negotiation and how these

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trade agreements could potentially effect the State of Maine. The upcoming public hearing on September 24, 2015 will enable the commission to gather comments from members of the Maine public regarding their opinions on these crucial trade agreements."

The CTPC was created by Maine State law in 2003 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 CTPC is composed of 6 legislators, 7 members from the private sector and 5 representatives of different state agencies.

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