

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vermont Commission on International Trade & State Sovereignty: Public Hearing on the Impact of International Trade on Business Competition in Vermont

International trade is a growing part of the state economy and affords Vermont opportunities for economic growth. International trade agreements, however, may impact jobs in Vermont, hinder the implementation and enforcement of state law, and undermine state sovereignty.

The Vermont Commission on International Trade and State Sovereignty plans a series of four public hearings around the state to provide information and gather public input about international trade agreements and how they affect Vermont.

The first of the public hearings will focus on the impact of international trade on business competition in Vermont. The hearing will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in South Burlington from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30, 2007. All are welcome to attend.

Attached is a letter explaining the hearing and offering links to the Trade Commission's web site for more information.

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- * Are you aware of how international trade agreements between the United States and other countries impact Vermont's businesses, environment, agriculture, and health care?
- * Do you know if your company benefits from international trade agreements?
- * Do you know how international trade agreements affect the laws of Vermont?

The Vermont Commission on International Trade and State Sovereignty has been charged with answering these questions and plans four public hearings around the state so that the public can provide input and learn about international trade agreements and how they affect Vermont. The first of the four public hearings will focus on the impact of international trade agreements on business competition and jobs in Vermont. The Commission will hold subsequent hearings focusing on the effect of international trade agreements on the environment, agriculture, and health care system of Vermont.

The business competition public hearing will be held October 30, 2007 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 1117 Williston Road in South Burlington. The Commission will provide a general overview of international trade agreements and their relation to businesses and

jobs in Vermont. In addition, the Commission will seek input from the public regarding their experiences and knowledge of international trade agreements and how such agreements impact the state, its businesses, and Vermont jobs.

To help prepare for the public hearing, a short overview of international trade agreements and the terms used in such agreements is available on the Commission's web site at <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/WorkGroups/Trade/>. Also available on the Commission's website is a page of talking points on which the Commission seeks information regarding how international trade agreements affect your business, organization, or job. If you plan to attend and participate in the hearing, please focus your testimony or input on the information requested in these talking points.

International trade agreements can have a substantial impact on Vermont and its citizens. Please join the Commission on International Trade and State Sovereignty at the October 30, 2007 meeting and subsequent meetings to learn about international trade agreement and to help the Commission understand how such agreements affect you. If you are interested in speaking at the public hearing or providing documents or materials, please contact Nedene Martin at 828-2231.