

STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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SEN. VIRGINIA "GINNY" LYONS
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DANIEL BRUSH
ELLIOT BURG
WILL DODGE
KEVIN DORN

Vermont Commission on International Trade & State Sovereignty

MINUTES

Thursday September 30, 2010

Approved November 15, 2010

Members Present: Dave Anger, John Boomhover, Elliot Burg, Dan Brush, William Dodge, Representative Kathleen Keenan, Co-chair, Senator Ginny Lyons, Co-chair

Members Not Present: Roger Allbee, Larry Bruce, Kevin Dorn

Also Present: Dana Eidsness, Director, Forum on Democracy and Trade (by phone); Robin Lunge, Legislative Council; Michael O'Grady, Legislative Council; Ali Sarafzade, Director of International Trade, Vermont Global Trade Partnership for Kevin Dorn; Ambassador Wegger Strommen, Norwegian Ambassador to the United States

Recordings: CDs 10-19, 20, 21

The Annual Report

Senator Lyons reminded the Commission that the Agency of Commerce and Community Development is responsible for producing the Annual Report.

Minutes

The approval of the minutes of August 9, 2010 was put on hold pending discussion of the Commission's Work Plan.

Update from the Forum on Democracy and Trade

Dana Eidsness presented updates on meetings with the Harrison Institute and with Myesha Ward of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). She had asked that the USTR open the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) membership to states and allied organizations, for coordinated conference calls with USTR, for coordinated on-site roundtables with USTR staff outside of Washington, and for USTR staff to be available for meetings or roundtable discussions around existing meetings outside of Washington. The USTR personnel were agreeable to all her requests and has opened the IGPAC charter. Dana also discussed Representative Peggy Rotundo's letter to Ambassador Kirk on investor-state issues. She reported that the USTR and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) agreed to participate in a trade policy leadership seminar and roundtable at NCSL's fall forum. She also discussed the Boeing/Airbus case before the World Trade Organization and the tobacco packaging regulation issue in the Trans Pacific

Partnership (TPP) agreement. Dana said it should be possible to set up a conference call with USTR on investor-state issues.

Handouts: Letter from Representative Margaret R. Rotundo to Ambassador Ron Kirk, 9/28/10

Regional Letter Regarding the Trans Pacific Partnership

Dana outlined the September 16, 2010 letter to USTR from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont trade commissions that requested that the pharmaceutical pricing chapter be excluded from the TPP and opposed the inclusion of pharmaceutical price regulatory restrictions in the TPP or any free trade agreement. She also said that a single “Bill of Rights” from New England trade commissions would offer a good basis for further discussions with USTR.

Draft Work Plan

Michael O’Grady reviewed the draft work plan that the Commission developed at its August retreat and the Commission discussed its priorities for the future.

Handout: Vermont Commission on International Trade and State Sovereignty, Proposed Action Plan 8/19/10

Trade Display

Elliot Burg reported on his research into the development of a display relating to international trade and state sovereignty.

Handout: Proposed Text for International trade & State Sovereignty Display, Elliot Burg

International Trade Issues

Ambassador Wegger Strommen, the Norwegian Ambassador to the United States, explained international trade issues facing Norway as an energy producer and non-member of the European Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Daniels
Legislative Council