

115 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05633
TEL: (802) 828-2228
FAX: (802) 828-2424



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REP. KATHLEEN C. KEENAN
SEN. VIRGINIA "GINNY" LYONS
ROGER ALLBEE
DAVID ANGER
JOHN BOOMHOVER
LAWRENCE BRUCE
DANIEL BRUSH
ELLIOT BURG
WILL DODGE
KEVIN DORN

Vermont Commission on International Trade & State Sovereignty

MINUTES

Monday December 13, 2010

Approved January 31, 2011

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

Members Not Present: Roger Allbee, Kevin Dorn

Also Present: Dana Eidsness, Director, Forum on Democracy and Trade (by phone); Michael O'Grady, Legislative Council; Ali Sarafzade, Director of International Trade, Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development

Recordings: CDs 10-24, 25

Minutes

Minutes of November 15, 2010 were approved unanimously as written.

US Trade Representative's Response on Conference Call and IGPAC Nomination

Myesha Ward of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has agreed to make one of the negotiators of the Korea Free Trade Agreement available to talk with the Commission on a Monday in January. The Commission discussed Ambassador Kirk's response to the Commission's letter of November 22, 2010 and discussed possible questions for the negotiator especially relating to the investment chapter of the Korea FTA. Elliot Burg suggested the Commission ask for an interpretive note depending on USTR's response to questions during the conference call and that we contact other trade commissions and Congressional staff about participating in the call. Michael O'Grady will call Bob Stumberg for clarification of the ratification process and will gather specific questions from members for the call.

Michael clarified that USTR does not provide travel expenses to Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) meetings in Washington, DC. The Commission unanimously agreed to nominate John Boomhover to become a member of IGPAC. Michael will draft a nomination letter and sent it to IGPAC and will send an informational letter to the Governor and the Transition Team.

Trans Pacific Partnership/Tobacco Letter

The Commission reviewed its letter to USTR Ambassador Kirk asking that the investor state provisions be removed from the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement.

Handout: Commission November 22, 2010 letter to The Hon. Ron Kirk

Education/Communication Items

Michael gave an update on the Commission's budget. John Boomhover agreed to contact Champlain College to see if their Graphic Arts Department might be interested in developing and educational display on trade issues.

NAFTA Analysis

Michael reported on different levels of analysis that the Maine Trade Commission provides. Other possibilities for having the analysis done for Vermont are the working with the Gund Institute, or delegating the task to some body in state government. Will Dodge reported on his conversations with several Chambers of Commerce regarding the NAFTA Analysis.

Update from Forum on Democracy and Trade

Dana Eisdness gave an update on the Korea Free Trade Agreement which she said will be the most economically significant FTA since NAFTA. She also discussed Columbia and Panama FTAs and the negotiations on the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). The fourth round of TPP negotiations were just concluded and included testimony from businesses and non governmental organizations on various topics. Dana also explained the current status of DOHA and GATS negotiations.

Dana, Bob Stumberg, and Karen Cordry led a panel presentation on GATS at the recent NCSL conference. NCSL and the National Association of Attorneys General will submit comments on GATS to USTR. The Commission agreed to ask Michael to draft a letter on domestic regulations in GATS to be circulated by email prior to the Commission's January meeting.

Other

Dan Brush asked if a timeline could be developed for various trade agreements being negotiated.

The Commission discussed whether to send a letter of nomination for Roger Albee to the Animal and Animal Products Trade Advisory Committee to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative. A decision on the letter was postponed until the January meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Daniels
Legislative Council