

Senator Jacalyn Cilley  
Senator Robert O'Dell  
Representative Will Infantine  
Representative Susi Nord  
Representative Saghir Tahir  
Representative Chuck Weed

Patrick Murphy, Legislative Aide



Arnold Alpert  
Tom Blais  
Jon Bresler  
Kevin Cash  
John Friede  
Denise Hart  
Alphonse Haettenschwiller  
Richard Head  
Joseph Marquette  
Paul O'Connor  
Alan Reische  
Dawn Wivell

# **New Hampshire Citizens Trade Policy Commission**

## **RSA Chapter 19-L:1**

## **2009 Annual Report**

## Committee Membership

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointed by</b>	<b>Name</b>
One member of the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee	Speaker of the House	Rep. Will Infantine
One member of the House Commerce Committee	Speaker of the House	Rep. Susi Nord
One member of the Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee	Senate President	Sen. Jacalyn Cilley
One member of the Senate Energy, Environment, and Economic Development Committee	Senate President	Sen. Robert O'Dell
The attorney general, or designee.	Attorney General	Richard Head
One representative for small business	Governor	Jon Bresler
One representative for small farms	Governor	Joseph Marquette
One representative of a non-profit organization that promotes fair trade	Governor	John Friede
One representative of a New Hampshire based corporation that is active in international trade	Governor	Tom Blais
The New Hampshire state point of contact for the United States Trade Representative	USTR	Dawn Wivell
One health care	Governor	Alphonse Haettenschwiller

professional		
One representative of a New Hampshire based manufacturing business with 25 or more employees	Governor	
One representative of an economic development organization	Governor	Alan Reische
One member who is active in the organized labor community	Speaker of the House	Paul O'Connor
One member of a nonprofit human rights organization	Speaker of the House	Arnold Alpert
One member of a nonprofit environmental organization	Speaker of the House	Denise Hart
One member who is active in the business community in a managerial capacity	Speaker of the House	Vacant
One member of the Advisory Committee on International Trade	Who appoints?	Kevin Cash

## 1. Formation of the Commission

The New Hampshire Citizens Trade Policy Commission was formed when Gov. John Lynch signed SB 162 into law on July 17, 2007. The Commission's purpose and membership are codified in RSA 19-L.

According to RSA 19-L, the purpose of the Commission is to "assess and monitor the legal and economic effects of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions, and the business environment; provide a mechanism for citizens and legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and make policy recommendations designed to protect New Hampshire's jobs, business environment, and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements." The law also defines membership in the Commission, which is to be made up of legislators, state officials, and citizens from a variety of walks of life.

RSA 19-L gives the Commission four specific duties:

1. Meet at least twice annually.
2. Hear public testimony and recommendations from the people of the state and qualified experts, when appropriate, at no fewer than 2 locations throughout the state each year on the actual and potential social, environmental, economic, and legal impacts of international trade agreements and negotiations on the state.
3. Conduct a bi-annual assessment of the impact of international trade agreements on New Hampshire state laws, municipal laws, working conditions, and business environment, and identify new and emerging concerns that merit further attention.
4. Publish an annual report, beginning in 2008

In addition, the law states the commission may:

1. Recommend or submit legislation to the general court.
2. Recommend that the state support, or withhold its support from future trade negotiations or agreements.
3. Examine any aspects of international trade, international economic integration, and trade agreements that the members of the commission consider appropriate.
4. Seek and accept outside funding in the form of gifts, grants, and donations to fulfill commission duties

## **2. Commission Meetings, Jan. 5 to Dec. 7, 2009**

The Commission met Jan. 5, February 1, April 6, May 4, July 6, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7.

Guest speakers at meetings included:

April 6 – Grace Preston from Secure Care, a Concord-based business, and Don Welch and Rob Freeze of Globe Manufacturing in Pittsfield, who described the products they make and issues related to foreign markets.

May 4 – Professor Douglas Irwin, of Dartmouth College, who discussed the history of U.S. trade policy.

July 6 – Michael Connor and Bob Stowell of the NH Department of Administrative Services gave a presentation on the State's procurement policies. Peter Riggs of the Forum on Democracy and Trade, present via speaker phone, described the how procurement fits into trade policy.

October 5 – Robin Lunge, a staff member of the Vermont Legislature, outlined provisions of the proposed Trade Reform Accountability Development and Employment Act (TRADE Act), which has been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

December 7 – Dorn Cox, a PhD student in Natural Resources and Earth Systems Science at UNH, presented his research on the impact of the WTO on New Hampshire farming.

### **3. Statutory Changes**

With the passage of SB 122, which was signed into law by Gov. Lynch on May 8, 2009 and went into effect upon signing, the quorum for the Commission was set at 9 members. In addition, SB 122 added two additional members to the Commission, both of which would be appointed by the Speaker of the House from among the members of the NH House of Representatives.

### **4. Membership Changes**

Sen. Robert O'Dell replaced Sen. Michael Kenny as a member from the Senate Energy, Environment, and Economic Development Committee.

Rep. Will Infantine was appointed in the place of Rep. Saghir Tahir as a representative from the House Labor Committee.

Joseph Marquette was appointed as a representative for small farms

Alphonse Haettenschwiller replaced Karla Armenti as a representative from health care.

Rep. Chuck Weed and Rep. Saghir Tahir were appointed as at-large members by the Speaker of the House.

At the October 5 meeting, Sen. Cilley and Rep. Weed were elected as Co-Chairs. Arnie Alpert and Jon Bresler were re-elected as Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively.

### **5. Actions**

The Commission endorsed HCR 3, a resolution concerning principles for international trade. Arnie Alpert represented the Commission at a public hearing before the State, Federal, and Veterans affairs committee. The resolution was defeated- indicating a lack of understanding of the existence and charge of the committee and suggesting a direction for future attention.

The Commission sent a letter to new U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk introducing itself, proposing creation of a Center on Trade and Federalism, and calling for the Trade Advisory Committee structure to be revised to give more weight to the concerns of the states.

The Commission approved asking the New Hampshire Attorney General for an opinion about the constitutional authority of the Governor and the General Court with regards to

formal participation of the State in provisions of international trade agreements.

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