

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

BRUCE POLIQUIN
2nd District of Maine

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April 24, 2015

Mrs. Cynthia Phinney
President
Maine Fair Trade Campaign
PO Box 2493
South Portland, ME 04116-2493

Dear Mrs. Phinney:

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me about fast-track authority for free trade agreements. Understanding your view on this important issue helps me better represent you and our fellow Mainers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The so-called "fast-track" authority allows American presidents to negotiate free trade agreements with specified foreign nations. Once the President informs Congress that negotiations are complete, Congress would then approve or disapprove the agreement without making any changes.

Like you, I have concerns with fast-track authority. I believe that it's critical for Congress to conduct robust oversight of the executive branch. Also, any trade agreement must be fair to American workers and companies, provide strong environmental protections, and not threaten our national security.

As you know, Congressman Paul Ryan (WI-1) introduced H.R.1890, the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, on April 17, 2015. According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), this bill would create congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations. H.R. 1890 has been referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means, Rules and the Budget, where it is currently being reviewed.

Be assured that I'm carefully examining this legislation with your concerns in mind. I would only agree to trade promotion authority if I concluded that it was in the best interest of Maine families.

You should know that I have fiercely opposed unfair trade practices. I signed a bipartisan letter with Maine Senators Collins and King, asking the Commerce Secretary to take all necessary action to stop unfair subsidies from the Canadian government to one of its paper mills at the expense of Madison Paper Company. As your Congressman, I will continue to fight unfair trade practices which threaten Maine and American jobs.

Again, thanks for taking the time to reach out to me. If you have any concerns in the future, please don't hesitate to contact our Congressional Office. I'm grateful and honored to represent you in Washington.

Best wishes,



Bruce Poliquin