

Cynthia Phinney

From: Senator Angus King [Senator@King.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2013 12:14 PM
To: info@mainefairtrade.org
Subject: Responding to your message

ANGUS S. KING JR.
MAINE

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United States Senate

Dear Cynthia,

Thank you for contacting me to share your opinion about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) treaty negotiations. I am deeply concerned about the TPP's effect on Maine businesses, families, and communities, and am working hard to ensure that our state is not adversely impacted. Any trade agreement that the United States reaches with TPP negotiating partners would have to be approved by Congress. Know this: I will not support any agreement that I believe would bring harm to Maine.

Unfortunately for Maine, our country's free trade agreements have too often allowed new participants into our markets who are not held to the same standards and rules as Maine businesses. Over the last several decades, our trade policies have produced reverse incentives for U.S. businesses to off-shore jobs, contributing to the hollowing out of the American economy and sharp, harmful declines in U.S. manufacturing.

I worry that the TPP will be another in a recent series of trade agreements that leaves Maine factories shuttered, workers unemployed, and families struggling. During my Senate campaign, I visited the New Balance facility in Skowhegan, Maine, to talk to workers about how the TPP's proposal to eliminate duties on imported footwear would have severe consequences for the company and for Maine. Since assuming office in January 2013, I have formally requested that United States Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Ron Kirk forego any discussion during the TPP negotiations of ending rubber and plastic footwear tariffs because of the potentially catastrophic result it could have for New Balance and its employees. I continue to follow up with his successor at the USTR to reiterate my concerns and request periodic updates on the negotiations.

The ongoing TPP negotiations remain one of my top concerns. Thank you for reaching out to me on this important topic, and please know that I am monitoring the situation closely with an eye toward effects any such agreement would have on the people of this country and, most importantly, on the people of Maine.

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

I am not able to read or respond to replies to this address. If you would like to be in contact with me further, please do not reply to this message, but instead go to <http://www.king.senate.gov/contact.cfm>. Thanks, Angus.

