

Citizen Trade Policy Commission Hearing
April 19, 2005 7:00 PM -10:00 PM
Luther Bonney Auditorium, USM, Portland ME

My name is Pauline Michaud and I live in Scarborough ME.

One of my concerns is contained in the following statement from the Bangor Hearings:

'CAFTA./NAFTA/FTAA are organizations directly linked to the World Trade Organization. WTO is an organization designed by representatives of multinational corporations who have no allegiance to any nation and have no regard for the welfare of common local people.'

And the most important point: 'When laws of individual member nations came into conflict with laws of the WTO, they have to submit to the WTO, even against the will of the local people.'

In 2003, the Clean Clothes Campaign of Southern Maine, of which I am a member, initiated a movement to have the town of Scarborough add an ethical purchasing provision to its purchasing policy. This provision, after thorough consideration, was passed by the town council and became part of our town's policy.

In 2001, the state of Maine adopted a state ethical purchasing law, through the collective support and work of Clean Clothes Campaigns across the state of Maine.

The purpose of these two measures is to promote the fair treatment of workers, and to provide equitable treatment to those in our country and in other countries.

Unfortunately, NAFTA and CAFTA make no provisions for the welfare of workers. Money and power are the criteria. We must protect the laws we have in effect for the protection of workers, and make sure that no outside organization is empowered to remove these carefully considered provisions from our legal system.