

Save Our Groundwater

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NEWS

October 15, 2007

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SAVE OUR GROUNDWATER BOARD MEMBER DENISE HART IS APPOINTED TO CITIZENS TRADE POLICY COMMISSION

BARRINGTON, NH – Denise Hart, a board member of Save Our Groundwater, was recently appointed to the New Hampshire Citizens Trade Policy Commission by Terie Norelli, Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. She was appointed to the nonprofit environmental organization slot on the commission.

The Citizens Trade Policy Commission was established as a legislative commission in the 2007 session by Senate Bill 162 to evaluate the impact of existing and proposed international trade agreements on the ability of the state of New Hampshire and its municipalities to pass laws and ordinances regarding public health and safety, environmental protection, labor standards, state and local procurement, and the provision of public services.

The commission is charged with assessing and monitoring the legal and economic effects of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions, and the business environment; providing a mechanism for citizens and legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and making policy recommendations designed to protect New Hampshire's jobs, business environment, and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements.

“I am honored to be appointed to the commission and look forward to taking up our duties to research the impacts of trade agreements and report back to the legislature,” said Hart. “New Hampshire joins Maine and other New England states that are committing resources to understanding and addressing the impacts of these agreements on state and local laws.”

Hart holds a Master's of Education degree from Northeastern University and a Master's of Arts in English degree from the University of New Hampshire. She also serves on the board of the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. Her concern about the impacts of international trade agreements goes back to when she ran a Boston retraining center for workers who had lost their jobs due to plant closings in the early days of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization. Save Our Groundwater's concerns about the plans of a bottled water company to sell local water to other countries brought the impacts of international trade agreements close to home. Hart resides in Barrington with her husband.

Save Our Groundwater (SOG) is a New Hampshire Seacoast-area citizens' action organization dedicated to protecting water in the public trust. SOG formed in 2001 in response to a bottled water company's application to take more than 400,000 gallons/day from the aquifer underlying the local rural communities. Six years later, SOG is still holding the line. For more information, visit <http://www.saveourgroundwater.org>

The commission's meetings are open to the public. Their next meeting will be Monday, October 22, 2007 at 9 a.m. at the Legislative Office Building in Concord.