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Trade & Manufacturing Alert

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Indiana University Launches a New Initiative on U.S. Manufacturing and Public Policy *Gilbert B. Kaplan*

Until late April of this year, there was not a cross-disciplinary university initiative dedicated to studying U.S. manufacturing public policy issues and developing solutions relevant to the manufacturing sector. Though there are university cross-disciplinary initiatives dedicated to many other public policy issues, such as housing, tobacco, healthcare, and aging, there simply was not one focused on U.S. manufacturing. Yet the opportunities and problems of the manufacturing sector in the United States are deeply impacted by public policy issues, including international trade, tax, regulatory, energy, research & development, and education policy.

On April 14, Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) <u>announced</u> that it was launching a public policy initiative to strengthen U.S. manufacturing. The cross-disciplinary effort will study U.S. manufacturing policy issues and develop solutions. More »

Trade Promotion Authority Update: It's Halftime and Still Anyone's Ballgame

Patrick J. Togni

Like a football team scoring a touchdown in the closing seconds of the first half, the Senate passed the *Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015* (the *Trade Act of 2015*) at 8:51 p.m. on Friday, May 22, before adjourning for the Memorial Day recess. As we reported last month, Senate passage of so-called Trade Promotion Authority by a 62-37 margin is a prelude to "the hard part" for Congressional consideration of the Trade Act of 2015 – action in the House of Representatives. Thus, like in any football game, the final score is what really matters. More »

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Senators Baldwin and Coons Lead "Manufacturing Jobs for America" Campaign

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Lauren M. Donoghue

On April 29, Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) kicked off a campaign focused on rallying bipartisan support for legislation that would help manufacturers in the United States grow and create jobs. The Manufacturing Jobs for America (MJA) campaign had its start in the last Congress and the kick-off, which took place at an event hosted by Third Way at Union Station in Washington, D.C., was part of a significant media campaign to announce its revival in the 114th Congress. Senator Coons said he envisions the MJA campaign as a way to gather ideas from Senate Democrats that can then be taken to Senate Republicans to solicit co-sponsors and build bipartisan partnerships. More »

China Issues Its First Ten-Year Plan to Boost the Manufacturing Sector *Lingna Yan*

On May 19, the State Council of China published the country's first ten-year plan to boost its manufacturing sector, the China Manufacturing 2025 strategy. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang first mentioned the China Manufacturing 2025 strategy in his Government Work Report earlier this year, as a part of a broader 30-year strategy of transforming China from a "big manufacturing country" into a "powerful manufacturing country." As it begins implementation of this ten-year plan, China's manufacturing sector faces pressure from increasing labor costs, shrinking markets, and resource constraints, and the country's monthly producer price index (PPI) has decreased each month since March 2012. More »

News Of Note

- China Announces Elimination of Export Duties on Rare Earth Elements *Cole Pfeiffer & P. Lee Smith* – On August 7, 2014, the World Trade Organization's (WTO's) <u>Appellate Body upheld</u> a <u>March</u> <u>2014 dispute settlement panel decision</u> that China's imposition of export duties on tungsten, molybdenum, and other rare earth elements breached WTO rules. This decision represented an <u>important victory</u> for the United States and its partners against Chinese policies, which according to the United States "had forced American manufacturers to pay as much as 300 percent more than what their Chinese competitors pay for the same materials." As of May 1, 2015, the Chinese Government has announced that it has eliminated the aforementioned export duties that were inconsistent with WTO rules. More »
- Seychelles Becomes the 161st Member of the WTO *Jordan Shepherd* The World Trade Organization (WTO) expanded its membership on April 26 with the addition of <u>Seychelles</u> as its 161st Member. More »
- New Report Highlights the Impact of Trade in All 50 States *Quinn Bailey & Shannon Doyle Barna*
 In April 2015, the Department of Commerce and the Office of the <u>U.S. Trade Representative</u> released a joint report titled "United States of Trade" to highlight stories and data about the positive impact of trade in all 50 states. More »

If you have any questions or comments about any of the articles, please click here.

Contacts

<u>Gilbert B. Kaplan</u>	Jeffrey M. Telep	Stephen A. Jones	P. Lee Smith	Joshua M. Snead
gkaplan@kslaw.com	jtelep@kslaw.com	sajones@kslaw.com	lsmith@kslaw.com	jsnead@kslaw.com
+1 202 661 7981	+1 202 626 2390	+1 202 626 2950	+1 202 626 2940	+1 202 626 2919

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