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Public Comments And Hearing Regarding Administration Report On Significant Trade Deficits

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On April 17, 2017, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (Commerce) published a [Federal Register notice](#) regarding a public hearing and a request for comments "to assist in the analysis for the assessment" of Significant Trade Deficits which is required by the Presidential [Executive Order](#) Regarding the Omnibus Report on Significant Trade Deficits (Omnibus Report On Significant Trade Deficits Executive Order). [More »](#)

Buy American Legislation in the 115th Congress

William Clarkson

On April 18, 2017, [President Trump unveiled](#) his Administration's [Buy American and Hire American](#) policy, signing an executive order aimed, in part, at targeting "the abusive use of waivers and exceptions that undermine 'Buy American' laws." While the Executive Order has so far received a mixed reception on Capitol Hill, the Administration's support for expansive U.S. origin government procurement policies may provide additional traction for certain Buy American bills pending before Congress. [More »](#)

Status Update On NAFTA

Betre Gizaw

Although the situation remains fluid, all signs now point to renegotiation (as opposed to termination) of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA or the Agreement). Late last week, [press reports](#) indicated that a draft executive order declaring the intent of the United States to withdraw from NAFTA was being considered by the White House, but President Trump tweeted last Thursday morning that

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he agreed with his Canadian and Mexican counterparts “to renegotiate NAFTA rather than terminate.” These developments are occurring against the backdrop of increased attention on the U.S.-Canadian trade relationship in particular, on issues ranging from new duties imposed on imports of Canadian softwood lumber into the United States to barriers to access to the Canadian market for certain U.S. dairy products. [More »](#)

U.S.-China “100-Day Plan” On Trade

Lingna Yan

On April 6-7, 2017, President Trump hosted President Xi Jinping of China at Mar-a-Lago for the first meeting between the two leaders. The meetings covered a number of important topics including economic and trade issues, and the two presidents “agreed to work in concert to expand areas of cooperation while managing differences based on mutual respect.” [More »](#)

News of Note

- **U.S. Government To Investigate Effects Of Steel, Aluminum Imports On National Security** – *Lingna Yan and Patrick Togni* – In late April, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross initiated two investigations to determine the effects of imported steel and aluminum on national security pursuant to section 232(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. The investigations must be concluded and a report submitted to President Trump within 270 days. The President will then have 90 days to determine what action should be taken to remedy any harmful effects caused by the imports, as discussed in the Commerce report. [More »](#)
- **2017 National Trade Estimate Released By USTR** – *Ben Bay* – On March 31, 2017, USTR released the 2017 National Trade Estimate (NTE). The NTE is an annual survey on barriers to American exports, including tariffs, export subsidies, insufficient intellectual property rights protections, as well as barriers to investment, services and digital trade. The report covers 58 countries, the European Union, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. [More »](#)
- **Update On Construction Of Pipelines Using Domestic Steel And Iron** – *Marina Leonart-Calvo and Kathleen L. Benner* – On January 24, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed the Presidential Memorandum Regarding Construction of American Pipelines directing the Secretary of Commerce to develop a plan under which all new, “retrofitted, repaired, or expanded pipelines, inside the borders of the United States” use American-made

Particular Market Situation
Applied in the Antidumping
Administrative Review of
Certain Oil Country Tubular
Goods from the Republic of
Korea

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materials and equipment. As previously [reported](#), on March 16, the Department of Commerce published a Federal Register [notice](#) seeking comments regarding the use of materials produced in the U.S. in the construction of American pipelines. [More »](#)

- **Senators Request GAO Report On Federal Economic Adjustment Programs, Including Trade Adjustment Assistance** – [Elizabeth E. Owerbach and Alexandra Carr](#) – On March 28, Senators Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va) [requested](#) that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) review major U.S. government economic adjustment programs, including programs related to trade, and options for “a more comprehensive policy response.” [More »](#)
- **New Developments For U.S. Trade Representative And U.S. Export-Import Bank Nominees** – [Quinn Bailey and Clint Long](#) – On April 25, and after months of negotiations, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) nominee [Robert Lighthizer](#) was unanimously approved by the Senate Finance Committee. [More »](#)
- **Commerce Found That A Particular Market Situation Applied in the Antidumping Administrative Review of Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from the Republic of Korea** – [Saud A. Aldawsari and Richard Lutz](#) – On April 10, 2017, the Department of Commerce issued its [final results](#) in the antidumping administrative review of Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from the Republic of Korea (OCTG). Commerce found that a Particular Market Situation (PMS) applied in Korea because of distorted OCTG input costs. [More »](#)

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