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# Trade & Manufacturing Alert

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## Foreign Currency Manipulation Front and Center in U.S. Trade Talks

*Elizabeth Owerbach*

As the Obama Administration vigorously pursues its trade agenda, bipartisan groups in the House and Senate have brought the issue of currency manipulation to the forefront of the trade policy debate. On February 10, Representatives Sander Levin (D-MI), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Mo Brooks (R-AL), and Tim Murphy (R-PA) introduced [the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act](#). The Senate bill, entitled [the Currency Undervaluation Investigation Act](#), was sponsored by Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), Richard Burr (R-NC), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Bob Casey (D-PA), Joe Donnelly (D-IN), and Rob Portman (R-OH). These very similar bills empower the Department of Commerce to investigate and impose countervailing duties to offset the subsidy that occurs when a foreign government manipulates its currency. [More »](#)

## United States Challenges Chinese Export Subsidies at the WTO

*Joseph A. Laroski Jr.*

On February 11, the United States requested consultations with China regarding more than 180 central and sub-central government measures that allegedly provide export-contingent subsidies to enterprises in several industrial sectors including textiles, agriculture, medical products, light industry, special chemical engineering, new materials, and hardware and building materials. A request for consultations is the first step in the formal dispute settlement process at the World Trade Organization (WTO). [More »](#)

## Executive Branch Launches Plan to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

*J. Michael Taylor, Eleanor J. Hill, Gary G. Grindler, Mark T. Wasden, & John A. Drennan*

President issued the [National Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking](#), the Departments of Justice, State, and the Interior released an [implementation plan](#) for the *Strategy*. The implementation plan affirms the government's commitment to working with the private sector to combat wildlife trafficking, which has

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escalated over the last decade into an urgent conservation and national security threat. The government recognizes that like other forms of illegal trafficking, wildlife trafficking fuels organized crime and official corruption, destabilizing governments and undermining economic development. [More »](#)

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## News Of Note

- **Customs and Border Protection Issues Update on Enforcement of Trade Orders** – [P. Lee Smith](#) – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) released its second [AD/CVD Update](#) in late January. [More »](#)
  - **President Obama Sends FY 2016 Budget Proposal to Congress** – [Lauren M. Donoghue](#) – On February 2, President Obama released his proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. [More »](#)
  - **International Trade Commission Issues Final Determination in Multiple Mode Outdoor Grills Finding Violation Against Certain Respondents and Exonerating Others** – [Jeffrey M. Telep & Taryn Koball Williams](#) – On February 3, 2015, the International Trade Commission (Commission) issued its [final determination](#) in *Certain Multiple Mode Outdoor Grills*, Inv. No. 337-TA-895, in which it found a violation of Section 337 as to Respondents Brinkmann Corporation (Brinkmann); Outdoor Leisure Products, Inc. (OLP); Dongguan Kingsun Enterprises Co., Ltd. (Kingsun); Academy, Ltd. (Academy); and Ningbo Huige Outdoor Products, Co., Ltd. (Huige). [More »](#)
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