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Trade Lines

Policy Intelligence for Global Business Leaders

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Welcome to Trade Lines, your view from DC on the evolving landscape of international trade and regulatory policy. Curated for business leaders and decision-makers, this newsletter delivers timely insights into the issues shaping global commerce—from tariff shifts and supply chain disruptions to legislative developments and compliance trends. Our goal is to help you anticipate change, assess impact, and act with confidence in a fast-moving policy environment.

Global Signals

EU Parliament continues pause on trade deal implementation

The European Parliament's trade committee met again this week to consider advancing legislation that would remove import duties on U.S. industrial goods - a commitment required by the U.S.-EU trade deal. That vote was postponed again as the EU seeks further clarification on the impact of the Supreme Court decision striking down IEEPA tariffs, as well as the impact of new Section 122 tariffs. EU lawmakers will meet again on March 17 to consider whether to move forward with a vote.

Policy Pulse

24 states file with the U.S. Court of International Trade to block Sec. 122 tariffs

On March 5, Democratic State Attorneys General and Governors from 24 states [filed](#) a new lawsuit with the U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT) requesting that the court block the Trump Administration's 10% tariffs imposed under Section 122 of the 1974 Trade Act. The complaint argues that Section 122 may only be invoked to address balance-of-payments crisis and that a trade deficit does not satisfy this test. The complaint also argues that the exemptions from the Section 122 tariffs are not consistent with Section 122's requirement that tariffs "'be applied consistently with the principle of nondiscriminatory treatment'" and "'of broad and uniform application with respect to product coverage.'" Plaintiffs ask the CIT to rule the tariffs unlawful and order the federal government to provide refunds to states for the tariffs paid while they were in place.

Courts begin weighing in on the prospect of IEEPA tariff refunds

On March 2, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit rejected the federal government's bid to delay tariff refund proceedings by up to 120 days. The Court granted a motion filed by plaintiffs to immediately issue its mandate, and in doing so, returned the case to the CIT which can now begin processing the more than 2,000 lawsuits filed by importers requesting refunds for paid IEEPA duties.

On March 4, the CIT [ordered](#) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to liquidate and, where applicable, reliquidate certain import entries without regard to duties imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). The order follows the Supreme Court's recent decision in [Learning Resources](#), which held the IEEPA-based duties were unlawful. "All importers of record whose entries were subject to IEEPA duties are entitled to the benefit of the *Learning Resources* decision," the CIT noted.

In its order, the CIT directed that all unliquidated entries entered subject to the IEEPA duties be liquidated without those duties and that any liquidated entries for which liquidation is not final be reliquidated on the same basis. The order does not address entries for which liquidation is already final.

The CIT noted its "exclusive jurisdiction" over such claims and the need for uniform treatment of affected entries. The order is expected to be appealed.

USTR Ambassador Greer releases 2026 Trade Policy Agenda

On March 2, USTR Ambassador Jamieson Greer delivered to Congress the [president's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda and 2025 Annual Report](#). The report states that "The Trump Administration is going to double down on the America First Trade Policy in 2026 to capitalize on the wins from 2025 and keep momentum going for domestic producers and the U.S. economy." It specifies that the administration will prioritize the following six core areas:

- Continue the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) program;
- Pursue robust enforcement of the ARTs, other trade agreements, and U.S. trade laws;
- Secure supply chains for critical minerals and sectors;
- Conduct the review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA);
- Manage trade with China for reciprocity and balance; and
- Promote American interests in international fora.

The 2026 Agenda also references combatting "unreasonable and discriminatory measures that burden or restrict U.S. commerce through existing Section 301 actions" and suggests USTR may initiate new Section 301 investigations. It also mentions specific industries where the U.S. will pursue supply chain resilience including "pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, metals and their downstream products, energy inputs and technologies, semiconductors and semiconductor equipment, automotive parts and finished vehicles, and critical mineral production and refining."

Regarding the World Trade Organization (WTO), the 2026 Agenda states that the U.S. “will continue its day-to-day work to reduce barriers to U.S. trade” and that at the 14th Ministerial Conference, the U.S. will urge “reassessment of the most favored nation principle so that trading nations can differentiate among trading partners more effectively.”

The release of the annual Trade Agenda is generally followed by the House Ways & Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee holding hearings with testimony by the US Trade Representative.

USTR issues 2025 Review of Notorious Markets List

On March 3, USTR [released](#) findings from its 2025 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy. In a [statement](#), Ambassador Greer said “With the United States co-hosting the FIFA World Cup, we are particularly attuned to sales of counterfeit merchandise and illicit streaming of sports broadcasts.” The 2025 list “identifies 37 online markets and 32 physical markets that are reported to engage in or facilitate substantial trademark counterfeiting or copyright piracy ... and identifies a wide variety of sites, including e-commerce and social commerce sites, as well as ‘bulletproof’ hosting providers, streaming sites, or other piracy-enabling sites for copying and distributing content.”

USTR requests nominations for trade advisory committees

On March 4, several [notices](#) were published by USTR to the Federal Register requesting nominations for the following advisory committees:

- Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations;
- Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee on Trade;
- Trade Advisory Committee on Africa; and
- Trade and Environment Policy Advisor Committee.

USTR encourages interested parties to submit applications by March 25, after which applications will be considered on a rolling basis as vacancies arise.

Hill Highlights

Republican lawmakers call for lower cotton tariffs in India trade deal

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX) led several House Ways & Means Trade Subcommittee members in a [letter](#) to USTR Ambassador Greer urging negotiation of a “permanent reduction or elimination of India’s trade barriers to American cotton exports ... Increasing market access to one of the world’s largest economies would provide a much-needed market-driven boost to our cotton farmers who have suffered several years of historic losses resulting from inflation, low demand, and inclement weather. Additionally, increased U.S. exports to India would be mutually beneficial by helping support India’s growing textile industry with reliable and high-quality U.S. inputs.” The American Cotton Shippers said in a statement that they “strongly support

Chairman Arrington's leadership in urging USTR to eliminate India's 11% tariff on U.S. cotton, which impedes access for U.S. cotton into this critical market."

Bipartisan lawmakers speak about future of AGOA

At an event hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on March 3, the Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness, Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA), and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE), spoke about the long term outlook on the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Sen. Warnock said, "we need to reauthorize AGOA ...it needs to be long-term" because AGOA has "delivered prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic." Rep. Smith described the latest one-year extension of the trade preference program as a "stepping stone toward a longer-term AGOA" and noted that "I prefer the House bill version of three years, so I'd encourage the Senate to take that up."

Upcoming Deadlines

March 19: Deadline to submit comments to USTR on critical minerals agreements.

March 26: 14th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference convenes in Cameroon.

March 27: Deadline for President to decide whether to act in the section 232 investigation concerning pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients.

March 28: Commerce Department to send the President its findings on its section 232 investigations into drones and polysilicon and derivative products by this date.

April 13: Deadline to submit comments to the ITC in its investigation concerning economic impacts of revoking China's PNTR status.

April 26: Deadline for President to decide whether to act in the section 232 investigation concerning commercial aircraft and jet engines.

May 10: Commerce Department to send the President its findings on its section 232 investigation into wind turbines by this date.

May 11: Deadline to request to appear at ITC's public hearing in its investigation concerning China's state support and pricing practices in the biotechnology sector.

May 17: The ITC holds a public hearing in the ITC's investigation concerning China's state support and pricing practices in the biotechnology sector.

May 30: Commerce Department to send the President its findings on its section 232 investigations into robotics and industrial machinery and PPE, medical consumables, and medical equipment, including devices by this date.

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