



17 April 2026

Trade Lines

Policy Intelligence for Global Business Leaders

*Published by Blake Harden and Evan Giesemann
Washington Council EY*

Trade Lines brings you timely updates from DC on global trade and regulatory policy. Curated for business leaders and decision-makers, this newsletter highlights key shifts in trade policy –from tariff shifts and supply chain disruptions to legislative developments and compliance trends. Stay ahead, evaluate impact, and make informed decisions in a rapidly changing environment.

In This Issue

Global Signals

- U.S. trading partners engage on Section 301 investigations

Policy Pulse

- CBP to open IEEPA refund process on April 20
- CIT considers Section 122 tariffs
- DOJ argues President has authority to restrict de minimis under IEEPA

Hill Highlights

- House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on USTR budget request
- USTR Greer to testify April 22-23 on the President's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda
- More than 40 Senators urge USTR to preserve USMCA, consult with Congress

Global Signals

U.S. trading partners engage on Section 301 investigations

More than a dozen economies submitted comments to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in response to its Section 301 investigations into structural excess capacity and forced labor import bans. Written comments and requests to testify at upcoming public hearings were due to USTR on April 15.

Approximately 456 comments were filed in response to the forced labor import ban investigation, in addition to approximately 81 requests to testify. The public comment docket is available [here](#) and requests to testify are available [here](#). The governments of Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, and Vietnam all requested to testify.

Approximately 812 comments were filed in response to the manufacturing overcapacity investigation, in addition to approximately 171 requests to testify. The public comment docket is available [here](#) and the requests to testify are available [here](#). The governments of Indonesia, Mexico, South Korea, and Vietnam all requested to testify.

Policy Pulse

CBP to open IEEPA refund process on April 20

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) [announced](#) that it will initiate “Phase 1” of refunding duties paid under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) using the Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries (CAPE) tool on April 20. CAPE will allow for streamlined refunds, with interest, on an importer of record basis rather than on an entry-by-entry basis. Starting April 20, importers with unliquidated entries and entries within the 90-day period may request a refund but will require an Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) portal to submit CAPE declarations.

CBP has provided a list of [FAQs](#) and [guidance](#) with more information on this process. The agency has also announced that it will hold webinars at 1pm ET on April 21 and April 28 titled, “User Readiness Support: CAPE Declarations for IEEPA Duty Refunds.” According to CBP, the “webinars will provide guidance to users on how to successfully navigate the CAPE tab and process the submission from start to finish.” Register for the April 21 webinar [here](#). Register for the April 28 webinar [here](#).

CBP is [required](#) to provide another progress report on the “progress made in Phase 1” to the Court of International Trade (CIT) by 12 p.m. ET on April 28.

CIT considers Section 122 tariffs

On April 10, the CIT heard oral arguments on the president’s authority to enact tariffs under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. The panel of three judges considered congressional intent when directing the president to impose temporary tariffs for “large and serious United States balance-of-payments deficits.” The Department of Justice (DOJ) argued that the central issue is that more U.S. dollars flow overseas than are coming into the U.S. The judges have not yet provided a ruling.

DOJ argues President has authority to restrict de minimis under IEEPA

In oral arguments at the CIT on April 9, DOJ argued that the Supreme Court’s ruling striking down tariffs imposed under IEEPA does not impact the president’s ability to restrict de minimis treatment for goods valued at \$800 or less. DOJ argued that the president’s authority under IEEPA to “regulate . . . importation”

extends to the ability to prohibit de minimis treatment. Plaintiff Axle of Dearborn argued that “the suspension of the de minimis privilege is akin to imposing tariffs or unlimited amount and duration,” and therefore prohibited under IEEPA. The judges have not yet provided a ruling.

Hill Highlights

House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on USTR budget request

USTR Ambassador Jamieson Greer testified on April 16 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies regarding USTR’s budget request for fiscal year 2027. Greer praised the administration’s impact on domestic production and foreign exports saying, “We’ve never exported so much from the U.S. as we are now” and “we produced more steel than Japan last year for the first time in a long time.” Greer also noted the “nine agreements on reciprocal trade” and “inked deals with the UK, EU, Japan, and South Korea.” During the hearing, Greer told Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), “I’m going to Mexico next week” to speak with Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) including rules of origin. Regarding offshoring, Greer told Rep. DeLauro that “there’s continued offshoring toward Mexico” under the current USMCA and this was driving rule of origin talks.

Watch the hearing [here](#).

USTR Greer to testify April 22-23 on the President’s 2026 Trade Policy Agenda

The House Ways and Means Committee has announced that Ambassador Greer will testify at a hearing on [the President’s 2026 Trade Policy Agenda](#). The hearing is scheduled for April 22 at 10am. You can watch the hearing live [here](#).

The following day, on April 23 at 10am, Greer will testify before the Senate Finance Committee on the President’s 2026 Trade Policy Agenda. You can watch the hearing live [here](#).

More than 40 Senators urge USTR to preserve USMCA, consult with Congress

In a [letter](#) dated April 15, a bipartisan group of more than 40 senators wrote to Ambassador Greer in support of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the six-year joint review. The senators voiced support for enforcing the pact’s commitments, while also noting the importance of the USMCA to U.S. agricultural exports. The senators emphasized that “American family farmers and ranchers depend on the certainty afforded by a stable Agreement.” They further called upon Greer to engage “with Congress, farmers, and ranchers to ensure the agreement is improved to support U.S. agriculture and maintain strong market access for American producers.”

Key Dates

April 22-23: Ambassador Greer testifies before the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees regarding the President’s 2026 Trade Policy Agenda.

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

April 28: USTR holds a public hearing in the Section 301 investigations concerning forced labor import bans.

May 5: USTR holds a public hearing in the Section 301 investigations concerning manufacturing overcapacity.

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 14-15: President Trump travels to Beijing to meet with Chinese President Xi.

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.

June 26: President to announce any actions on Section 232 investigations into drones and polysilicon and derivative products, as well as unmanned aircraft systems and their parts and components.

If you have questions, please contact Blake Harden (blake.harden@ey.com) or Evan Giesemann (evan.giesemann@ey.com).

Washington Council Ernst & Young

Washington Council Ernst & Young (WCEY) is a group within Ernst & Young LLP that combines the power of a leading professional services organization with on-the-ground knowledge, personal relationships and attention to detail of a boutique policy firm. We provide our clients with timely, relevant Washington insight and legislative advisory services customized to their needs. To learn more, contact wcey@ey.com.