



2 October 2026

Trade Lines

Policy Intelligence for Global Business Leaders

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

- USTR announces \$30 billion of U.S. and Chinese goods which will be considered for lower tariffs

Policy Pulse

- USTR launches public consultation for 2027 USMCA joint review
- CBP issued two Withhold Release Orders on Indonesia palm oil and derivative products
- G20 trade ministers meet in Milwaukee, announce framework on steel excess capacity

Hill Highlights

- Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chairman discusses extension of USMCA

Global Signals

USTR announces \$30 billion of U.S. and Chinese goods which will be considered for lower tariffs

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) issued a [press release](#) following the meeting between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Washington DC last week announcing recommendations from the U.S.-China Board of Trade. This board was established following President Trump's visit to Beijing in May to "manage trade in non-sensitive products."

USTR Ambassador Jamieson Greer said "the United States and China, under the auspices of the new Board of Trade, have recommended \$30 billion of trade in non-sensitive goods on each side that could benefit from more favorable tariff treatment in the future... From agricultural products to medical devices, President Trump is unlocking improved market access for about 30 percent of U.S. exports to China, while

benefiting consumers with imports from China of household goods, toys, and other products that the United States generally does not import from other countries.” The announcement did not include a date when the proposed tariff reductions might take effect.

See the working procedures for the Board of Trade [here](#). See the terms of reference for the 30-for-30 framework [here](#) and the products recommended by the Board of Trade for tariff reductions [here](#).

Policy Pulse

USTR launches public consultation for 2027 USMCA joint review

USTR announced the public consultation process for the 2027 joint review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), opening dockets for written comments and hearing participation. The joint review mechanism requires the three governments to assess the agreement and determine whether to extend it for another 16-year term. The notice follows the first joint review meeting held on July 1, 2026, at which the United States did not agree to extend the agreement. As a result, under USMCA Article 34.7, the parties will conduct annual joint reviews until all three governments agree to extend the agreement or the pact expires on July 1, 2036.

USTR is seeking stakeholder input on a broad range of issues, including USMCA implementation and compliance, recommendations for U.S. negotiating positions, North American investment conditions, and strategies to strengthen regional competitiveness and economic security. Written comments and request to participate in the public hearing, along with a summary of hearing testimony, are due to USTR by January 12, 2027. The date and time of the public hearing are yet to be announced.

CBP issued two Withhold Release Orders on Indonesia palm oil and derivative products

On September 29, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued two Withhold Release [Orders](#) against palm oil and its derivative products produced by Mitra Aneka Rezeki (MAR) and Hardaya Inti Plantation (HIP) in Indonesia. Effective immediately, CBP personnel at all U.S. ports of entry will detain palm oil and its derivative products produced in Indonesia by MAR and HIP. Importers who have a shipment detained will have the opportunity to either re-export the detained shipment or to submit information to CBP demonstrating that the goods were not made in whole or in part with forced labor.

G20 trade ministers meet in Milwaukee, announce framework on steel excess capacity

USTR Ambassador Jamieson Greer hosted G20 trade ministers on September 30 and October 1 in Milwaukee. On September 30, participants in the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity adopted a new [framework](#) for joint action aimed at addressing growing global steel excess capacity. The cooperative framework calls for greater transparency around subsidies and government support measures, enhanced import monitoring, increased anti-circumvention cooperation, and continued use of trade remedies and other enforcement tools. In a [press release](#), Greer said that the U.S. “looks forward to working with other

members of the GFSEC in implementing the Milwaukee Framework, taking effective actions to address excess capacity and its impacts, and restoring a global level playing field for our workers and producers.”

Separately, in opening the broader G20 Trade Ministerial, Ambassador Greer [highlighted](#) four priorities for this year's discussions: weaponization of food, structural excess capacity, World Trade Organization Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) treatment and forced labor in global supply chains. He argued that governments should reassess aspects of the current trade framework in light of challenges such as excess capacity, economic coercion, and supply chain resilience.

Hill Highlights

Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chairman discusses extension of USMCA

Adrian Smith (R-NE), the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee chairman, said on September 29 at the American Growth Summit that President Trump would likely agree to an extension of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) by the end of his term. Rep. Smith said, “it makes sense to get us to a stronger USMCA” and “I can’t imagine that President Trump and his team want to punt that for the next administration.” When describing ongoing U.S. negotiations with Canada and Mexico, the subcommittee chairman said he was “pretty impressed” with the “good-faith efforts that Mexico has been making” and that he hopes Canada, who “brings things that Mexico doesn’t,” can “come to the table.”

Key Dates

October 6: CBP deployment of Phase 3 IEEPA refund capabilities covering finally liquidated entries.

October 18: Deadline for the White House decision to impose secondary tariff measures on certain trading partners related to Russian energy purchases and sanctions evasion.

October 24: USTR findings due in Section 301 investigation related to China’s Phase One commitments.

October 29: Deadline to submit comments to USTR on its National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers.

November 10: U.S.-China trade truce expires.

November 18: APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting held in Shenzhen, China.

November 30: USTR findings due in Section 301 investigation into Vietnam’s IP practices.

December 1: Comments due to CBP concerning new requirements to increase visibility in supply chains.

December 14: G20 Leaders’ Summit held in Doral, Florida.

January 12: Comments and requests to testify due to USTR for 2027 USMCA joint review.

This Alert will not be published while Congress is in recess, but other WCEY Trade Alerts will be issued as events warrant.

If you have questions, please contact Blake Harden (blake.harden@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.