

Washington Tariff & Trade Letter

Vol. 44, No. 19

wttonline.com

May 6, 2024

[Another Stab at a Farm Bill](#)

Congressional lawmakers are taking another stab at trying to put together and pass the 2024 Farm Bill after running into difficulties last year.

Both Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich) and House Agriculture Committee Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-Penn) unveiled their Farm Bill proposals last week.

While the Senate version appeals to the customary bipartisan compromise, the House Committee's ranking Democrat complains his GOP colleagues "turned what could have been a genuinely bipartisan bill into a messaging exercise to appease their right flank that has no chance of becoming law." [READ MORE](#)

[WTO DG: Surplus Will Allow New Hires](#)

Despite repeated requests to increase the World Trade Organization's budget during 2022 and 2023, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala says that "the organization will have a budgetary surplus of CHF 4.8 million (close to USD 5 million)", an increase that prompted her to seek "stepping up our recruitment to hire the very best staff."

The DG has embarked on reforming the Secretariat based on a McKinsey and Company report. The reform process generated considerable controversy in the organization, said several people familiar with the reform-related developments. [READ MORE](#)

[March Trade in Goods and Services](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis announced today that the goods and services deficit was \$69.4 billion in March, down \$0.1 billion from \$69.5 billion in February, ... [READ MORE](#)

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www.wttonline.com

Editor: Frank Ruffing +1.703.283.5220. fruffing@traderegs.com

[DoE Clarifies Foreign Entity of Concern for EV Credits](#)

The Energy Department has published their interpretation of the statutory definition of “foreign entity of concern” (FEOC) in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which applies to multiple programs related to the battery supply chain.

In this final interpretive rule, DOE responds to public comments, clarifying the term “foreign entity of concern” by providing interpretations of the following key terms: “government of a foreign country;” “foreign entity;” “subject to the jurisdiction;” and “owned by, controlled by, or subject to the direction.” [READ MORE](#)

[IRS Updates EV Credit Rules](#)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS released final rules on the clean vehicle provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act. The rules update taxpayer and vehicle eligibility for the credit for new clean vehicles and the previously-owned clean vehicle credit.

The rules also address the critical minerals and battery components requirements and Foreign Entity of Concern (or “excluded entity”) restriction that were added to the clean vehicle credit by the IRA. [READ MORE](#)

[Transparent Battery Supply Chain Bill](#)

Bipartisan legislation (HR 8187) introduced last week would improve transparency in the current battery supply chain by creating an Energy Department program to support the development, implementation and adoption of digital identification systems. [READ MORE](#)

[New China Committee Chair Launches](#)

The New Chairman of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI) promises to continue the Committee's role as a spotlight, though perhaps with less candlepower than his predecessor, retiring Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) [READ MORE](#)

[China Chair Squawks at Huawei News](#)

Responding to reports the company has secretly funded research at US universities through an independent foundation, new chairman of the House Select Committee on China Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Mich) is taking aim at Chinese telecoms giant Huawei.

The research funding is a way for China to steal US innovations, the chairman said. The Administration should suspend all export licenses to Huawei and consider other steps such as placing the company on the Specifically Designated National list, he stated. [READ MORE](#)

[U.S.-Taiwan Initiative Bears no Fruit](#)

The United States and Taiwan held an in-person negotiating round for the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade in Taipei last week, with no tangible results, according to the USTR's readout.

During the just-concluded, in-person negotiating round, the two sides continued to exchange views on proposed texts, including in the areas of agriculture, labor, and the environment, according to a readout. [READ MORE](#)

[Five Eyes Annual Principals Meeting](#)

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland attended the Five Eyes Law Enforcement Group (FELEG) Annual Principals Meeting this week, where international and national partners met to discuss technology, innovation and encryption, and the emergent impacts on global safety. [READ MORE](#)

[AUKUS State Issues ITAR Rules](#)

Following on the Commerce Department's modification of dual-use export controls for alliance partners [Link], the US Department of State proposes to amend the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) to support the goals of the AUKUS partnership.

The Department is proposing an ITAR amendment in the interest of preparing for a future exemption and obtaining public feedback to shape a final rule following any positive certification.... [READ MORE](#)

[Census AES Revision to Type C33 \(No License Required\) FOR AUKUS](#)

REVISION TO LICENSE TYPE C33 No License Required (NLR) to reflect "600 series" items are eligible for this license type when exported to Australia and the United Kingdom.

An update has been made to AES to reflect that NLR shipments of 600-series and 9x515 ECCNs (except .y paragraph) can be shipped only to Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. [READ MORE](#)

[China Chip Ban Rule Published](#)

The Department of Defense published proposed rules prohibiting the acquisition of semiconductor parts and services manufactured by certain Chinese manufacturing concerns.

DoD, GSA, and NASA are considering amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement paragraphs (a), (b), and (h) in section 5949 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 that prohibits executive agencies from procuring or obtaining certain products and services that include covered semiconductor products or services effective December 23, 2027. [READ MORE](#)

[ATF Firearms Export Form 9 Revision](#)

The Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) will be submitting for review and approval revisions to the form filed for approval to permanently export NFA firearms registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record [READ MORE](#)

[DDTC University Review Yields ITAR Compliance Guide](#)

The Directorate of Defense Trade Controls is issuing a white paper providing general findings from visiting various universities and research centers that are engaged in activities of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations from 2020 to early 2024.

The paper provides general compliance commendations, including “best practices” and recommendations that the Office of Defense Trade Controls Compliance provided to the universities following each visit. [READ MORE](#)

[Brooklyn Man Pleas Guilty in Dual Use Exports](#)

Nikolay Grigorev, 36, of Brooklyn, pleaded guilty today to conspiring to defraud the United States for his role in an illicit export control scheme to ship electronic components from the United States to companies affiliated with the Russian military... [READ MORE](#)

[Williams Sonoma Fined for Made in USA Violations](#)

The Justice Department, together with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), announced that Williams-Sonoma Inc. has agreed to a settlement that requires it to pay more than \$3 million in civil penalties and stop making false and misleading claims about the origins of its products. [READ MORE](#)

[Treasury's Nelson on Chinese Money Laundering](#)

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control last week, Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson Before the U.S. Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control directed lawmakers attention to Chinese money laundering organizations (CMLOs).

CMLOs offer several advantages for illicit actors. These money launderers are insular, decentralized, and rely on interpersonal relationships among the Chinese diaspora to conduct business, making them difficult for law enforcement to penetrate. [READ MORE](#)

[Aluminum Extrusions Anti Dumping Finding](#)

Thursday, The Commerce Department announced its preliminary determination that aluminum extrusion producers and exporters in in fourteen countries are selling their product in the US at less than fair value.

In 2022, the U.S. imported 57 million tons of aluminum extrusions worth about US\$3.19 billion from 15 countries, according to U.S. Department of Commerce statistics. The United States imported 110,000 tons worth US\$660 million from Mexico, the largest exporter of aluminum extrusions to the United States. [READ MORE](#)

[Mexico Wins First USMCA RRLM Case](#)

The first arbitration panel under the US-Mexico-Canada rapid response labor mechanism has ruled in favor of Mexico in the case of the San Martín mine, located in Sombrerete, Zacatecas.

The three members of the panel determined that they did not have jurisdiction to rule on the denial of union rights at the mine, because the problems occurred before the USMCA took effect, according to a release from Mexico's Ministry of Economy. [READ MORE](#)

[Uyghur Compliance Audits "Fig Leaf"](#)

US businesses with suppliers located in China's Xinjiang region cannot rely on social audits to confirm whether forced labor is being used in their supply chains, a top Administration labor official told lawmakers in an April 30 hearing.

"Social audits in China should not be seen as an authoritative source for companies reflecting on-the-ground human rights conditions," Deputy Undersecretary of Labor for International Affairs Thea Lee said. [READ MORE](#)

[Enforce and Protect Act \(EAPA\)'s Final Rule](#)

On April 17, 2024, the Enforce and Protect Act (EAPA)'s Final Rule takes effect. EAPA establishes procedures for an “interested party” to submit an allegation that an importer is evading its payment of antidumping and countervailing (AD/CVD) duties. [READ MORE](#)

[TIMBER Working Group Marks One Year](#)

Assistant Attorney General Todd Kim delivered remarks at the Department of Justice on April 29, 2024, marking the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Timber Interdiction Membership Board and Enforcement Resources Working Group. [READ MORE](#)

[Canada Plastic Registry Announced](#)

On April 22, 2024, Canada announced the implementation of a Federal Plastic Registry to monitor the types and volumes of plastic products, including plastic packaging used in agriculture and food manufacturing, through their life cycle on the Canadian market.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) announced the establishment of Federal Plastics Registry to require plastic resin manufacturers, producers of plastic products (including importers), and service providers to report each year, starting in 2025, on the quantity and types of plastic they place on the market and how that plastic moves through the economy. [READ MORE](#)