



WASHINGTON WATCH



May 2017

Senate Bill Would Make Federal Regulations Smarter and More Effective

Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) last week introduced the Regulatory Accountability Act (RAA) in the U.S. Senate, bipartisan legislation that would make the first major changes to the federal regulatory process in seven decades and would focus on accountability, transparency and participation.



Read more [here](#).

Study: \$1 Trillion Infrastructure Investment Could Create 3 Million Jobs

GlobeNewswire reports that a new study by The Boston Consulting Group and CG/LA Infrastructure finds that a \$1 trillion investment in infrastructure “could create 3 million or more jobs over the next five years if planners prioritize projects on the basis of their job creation potential and project criticality.”



Read more [here](#).

Economic Rise Since Trump's Election Should Last

The Wall Street Journal reports that after President Trump's election many economic indicators have dimmed, and it is a trend that many in the industry say should last.

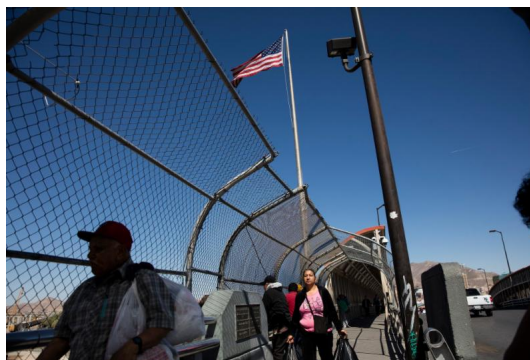
Read more [here](#).



NAFTA's Future Vital for Key Industries

The New York Times reports that "NAFTA has had a major impact on the American economy in the decades since it was signed, and any renegotiation would affect certain industries."

To read more, click [here](#).



Survey Shows Small Business Confidence Increasing

USA Today reports that small businesses "are brimming with confidence – and backing up their upbeat outlook with a burst of hiring and spending."

Read more [here](#).



CNN Money: CEOs "Shaping Economic Policy"

CNN Money reports that President Trump has "surrounded" himself with members of the business community.

Read more [here](#).



Senate Confirms Acosta as Labor Secretary

The New York Daily News reports that "the Senate confirmed Alex Acosta as secretary of labor," by a 60-38 vote.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Durable Goods Orders Rose Less Than Expected in March

BloombergNews reports the Commerce Department data released last week show that orders for durable goods “rose 0.7 percent” in March, compared to an expected 1.3 percent rise and a 2.3 percent February advance “that was higher than previously estimated.”

Read more [here](#).



New Homeownership Rates Beat New Renter Rates for First Time Since 2006

The Wall Street Journal reports for the first time since the third quarter of 2006, the number of new homeowners, 854,000, was higher than the number of new renters, 365,000.

Read more [here](#).



Oil, Gas Merger/Acquisition Activity Accelerated in First Quarter

U.S. oil and natural gas companies announced a record \$73 billion worth of mergers and acquisitions in the first quarter of 2017, almost three times the amount reported a year ago, according to a PricewaterhouseCoopers report.

Read more [here](#).



The Need for Tax Reform “Is More Urgent Than Ever”

The New York Times reports “President Trump last Wednesday proposed sharp reductions in both individual and corporate income tax rates, reducing the number of individual income tax brackets to three

– 10 percent, 25 percent and 35percent.”

Read more [here](#).



Trump Says U.S. Will Renegotiate NAFTA, Not Leave It

President Trump last Wednesday said the United States will not withdraw from NAFTA and will instead renegotiate the terms of the agreement.

Read more [here](#).



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