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**Business matters.**

# WASHINGTON WATCH



July 2017

## Trump Launches “Made InAmerica” Week; Hytrol Conveyor Co. Recognized

President Trump surveyed manufactured products from all 50 states Monday, before speaking about a range of policy positions to promote U.S. manufacturing. AIA member Hytrol Conveyor Co. of Jonesboro represented Arkansas in the event.

Read more [here](#).



## Administration Lays Out Objectives for NAFTA Renegotiation

The Office of the United States Trade Representative on Monday released a report laying out the Administration’s objectives for renegotiating NAFTA. The proposed deal would seek to deter currency manipulation by trading partners.

Read more [here](#).



## White House Pressured To Replace Ex-Im Bank Nominee

Politico reports that business groups are strongly pushing the Trump administration to pull the plug on the nomination of former Rep. Scott Garrett to head the Export-Import Bank. Garrett strongly opposed the bank while serving in Congress.

Read more [here](#).



## NAM’s Eisenberg: “Pleased” With New Direction At EPA

E&E Publishing reported that EPA Administrator

Scott Pruitt “has his lieutenants in at least six program offices at the agency,” and these “deputy assistant administrators don’t require Senate confirmation.” Pruitt and his team are working hard to implement President Trump’s agenda.

Read more [here](#).



## U.S. Industrial Output Rose for Fifth Straight Month in June; Manufacturing “Rebounded”

Reuters reported that “U.S. industrial production rose for a fifth straight month in June, helped by gains in mining, while the manufacturing sector rebounded.”

Read more [here](#).



## Fed Watching Inflation, Forecasters Say

MarketWatch reports that “inflation is too low now, but it could become troublesome if the unemployment rate continues to fall. The Fed’s worry is that it may have to raise rates abruptly to quench the embers of inflation if the economy gets too hot.”

Read more [here](#).



## Column: Lowering Taxes on Manufacturers Would Create Jobs

In a column in The Seattle Times, contributor Lew Moore says that “lowering taxes on manufacturers would pave the way for jobs that offer workers good pay and the promise of a more secure, family-wage income.”

Read more [here](#).



## U.S.-Manufactured Goods Exports Increase Through May Compared to May 2016

U.S.-manufactured goods exports have risen 3.67 percent through May relative to the same time period in 2016. The U.S. trade deficit also narrowed in May on a slight rise in goods exports and a decline in goods imports.

Read more [here](#).



## House Lawmakers Put Forth Bill Pushing Back EPA Ozone Regulations

The Daily Caller reports that “House lawmakers have put forward a draft budget bill that pushes back the compliance deadlines for what’s been called one of the most expensive Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations ever crafted.”

Read more [here](#).



## Tuchman Group CEO: Trump Should Keep Focus on Infrastructure

Fox Business reports “Tuchman Group Chairman and CEO Martin Tuchman saying, “You cannot continue to ignore rebuilding the infrastructure ... it eventually needs to be replaced and we have been ignoring the infrastructure for a very long time.”

Read more [here](#).



## NAM, Major Trade Associations Send Letter to Congress on Tax Reform

Oregon Business Report has reported that the National Association of Manufacturers, Business Roundtable, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the National Federation of Independent Business “sent a message to Congress urging them to reform tax policy.”

Read more [here](#).



## Bipartisan “Invent and Manufacture In America Act” Introduced

The Washington Examiner reports “Reps. Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Ron Kind (D-WA), with Sens. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Pat Roberts (R-KS) have introduced the Invent and Manufacture in America Act, a bill that would give a tax credit to companies that not only conduct research and development, but also manufacture products resulting from that R&D as well.”

Read more [here](#).



## U.S. Approves Alaska Offshore Drilling

An Italian multinational oil and gas company has received permission to move ahead with modest

drilling plans on leases sold in 2005 in federal waters off Alaska.

Read more [here](#).



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