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**Business matters.**

# WASHINGTON WATCH



September 2017

## U.S. Allows Foreign Fuel Shipments To Ease Shortages During Irma

The federal government last Friday issued a Jones Act waiver that allows foreign-flagged tankers to ship fuel between U.S. coasts in a move designed to offer hurricane-stricken states relief from fuel shortages. The waiver expires in a week.

Read more [here](#).



## NAM Chairman Farr: "It's Time for Tax Reform"

Fortune reported that David Farr, "CEO of Emerson Electric and also the Chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers," is also "a big advocate for tax reform and he's lobbying hard for it."

Read more [here](#).



## Driven by Harvey, Jobless Claims Up 62K To 298K; Q2 Productivity Revised Up To 1.5%

The Labor Department announced that initial jobless claims rose last week by 62,000 to 298,000, exceeding economists' forecast of 245,000 new claims and "the most since November 2012 as tens of thousands of Texans displaced by Hurricane Harvey filed applications to collect benefits."

Read more [here](#).



## Business Leaders "Love"

## Administration's Work on Regulation Reform

The Week reported, in an assessment of the Trump Administration's efforts to reduce government regulations, that business leaders "love" the president's moves towards deregulation.

Read more [here](#).



## NAM's Moutray: Hurricane Harvey Aftermath Will Impact Economy, Employment in Third Quarter

Dow Jones Newswires quotes NAM Chief Economist Chad Moutray saying, "The devastation in the surrounding Houston area, America's fourth-largest city, will be significant enough to negatively impact activity and employment nationally, especially in the third quarter, but some of those effects will be transitory."

Read more [here](#).



## Commerce Department: U.S. Wholesale Inventories for July Revised Upward

"U.S. wholesale inventories rose 0.6 percent in July as stocks for a variety of goods, including autos, posted gains," Reuters reported.

Read more [here](#).



## Hurricane Harvey "Paralyzed" Key Part of U.S. Manufacturing Supply Chain

CNBC reports that many "plastics and specialty chemicals that factories across the United States depend on are stuck on the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, threatening to create supply shortages and raise prices for U.S. manufacturers."

Read more [here](#).



## Harvey Threatens To Worsen Oil Glut

The crude oil left stranded due to refinery, pipeline and port closures in the wake of Hurricane Harvey is heading into storage tanks, adding to a persistent oil supply glut that threatens to cause prices to tumble further below \$50 per barrel.

Read more [here](#).



## Seven Ways To Increase Employee Safety During Natural Disasters

Many natural disasters occur with little lead time, so advance planning is critical, according to attorney Howard Mavity of Fisher Phillips.

Read more [here](#).



## ISM Survey: Service Industries Show Gain in August

Bloomberg News reports that “the expansion in service industries in August indicates the biggest part of the U.S. economy regained its footing after a soft month, a survey from the Institute for Supply Management showed.”

Read more [here](#).



## House Passes Legislation Supporting Autonomous Vehicle Development

The New York Times reports that Congress “took a major step toward advancing the development of driverless cars, approving legislation that would put the vehicles onto public roads more quickly and curb states from slowing their spread.”

Read more [here](#).



## Trump Campaign Releases Video Touting Apprenticeships

The Washington Times reports that “President Trump’s re-election campaign released a video Wednesday highlighting the president’s executive actions to promote apprenticeships” and his record keeping promises to support American business.

Read more [here](#).



## NAM’s Timmons Among Major Association Heads Opposing Decision To End DACA Program

In a statement for Shopfloor, NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons defends the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program in opposition to last week’s decision to end it.

Read more [here](#).



## NAM, Pfizer Announce Campaign To Close “Skills Gap”

The NAM and Pfizer have introduced a new media campaign, “as part of the NAM’s ‘Creators Wanted’ initiative” that “is a sustained effort to answer manufacturers’ workforce challenges.”

Read more [here](#).



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