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WASHINGTON WATCH



December 2020

Bipartisan Senate Group Revives Coronavirus Relief Talks

A bipartisan group of senators is trying to jump-start stalled coronavirus stimulus talks during the lame duck session as cases and deaths spike ahead of the coming winter.

Read more [here](#).



Pelosi, McConnell Resume Discussions on COVID-19 Stimulus Deal

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell resumed discussions as Congress scrambles to strike a coronavirus stimulus deal.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Threatens to Veto National Defense Authorization Act

President Trump has threatened to veto the \$740 billion National Defense Authorization Act unless it contains a measure to scrap a federal law protecting social media companies.

Read more [here](#).



Judge Throws Out Trump Rules Limiting Skilled-Worker Visas

A federal judge recently struck down two Trump administration rules that were designed to drastically curtail the number of visas issued each year to skilled foreign workers.

Read more [here](#).



Biden Names Economic Team as Pandemic Threatens Workers

With unemployment still high and the pandemic threatening another economic slump, President-elect Joe Biden recently announced a team of economic advisers.

Read more [here](#).



GAO: Most States Concerned About Adequate Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccines

The congressional Government Accountability Office (GAO) says most states are concerned they won't have adequate supplies to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

Read more [here](#).



SBA Releases Data Regarding PPP and EIDL Loan Recipients

The U.S. Small Business Administration recently released a sweeping dataset of every small business that received a PPP or EIDL loan.

Read more [here](#).



Biden Says He Won't Immediately Lift China Tariffs

President-elect Joe Biden says he won't immediately lift tariffs placed by President Donald Trump on many imports from China or break Trump's initial trade deal.

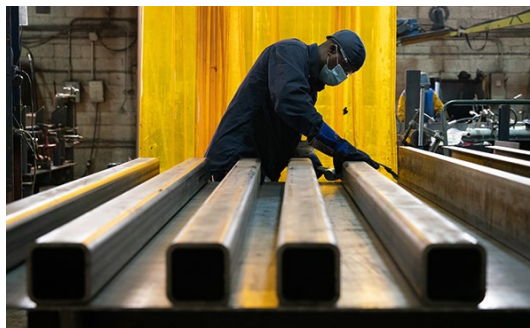
Read more [here](#).



ISM Reports U.S. Manufacturing Sector Slowed in November

The Institute of Supply Management reported that U.S. manufacturing activity slowed in November, with new orders retreating from their highest level in nearly 17 years.

Read more [here](#).



Senate Approves Two FERC Nominees, Completing Panel

The U.S. Senate recently confirmed two nominees, a Democrat and a Republican, to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Read more [here](#).



SEC Proposes Paying Gig Workers in Equity Rather Than Cash

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has proposed a pilot program to allow companies like Uber and Lyft to pay gig workers up to 15 percent in equity rather than cash.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Nuclear Dump Facing Space, Staffing Challenges

The Government Accountability Office in a recent report said better planning is needed at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico to avoid potential disruptions.

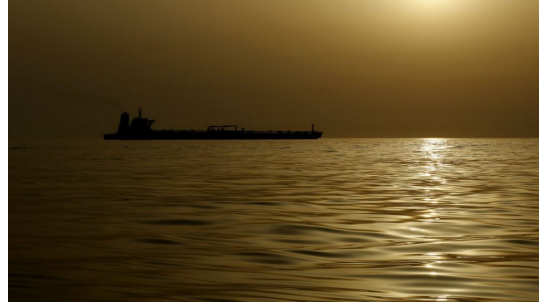
Read more [here](#).



Asia Showing a Revived Appetite for U.S. Crude Oil

Shipping data suggest that as many as 20 ships loaded with U.S. crude oil could set sail for Asia in December, most of which are supertankers capable of carrying 2 million barrels each.

Read more [here](#).



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