



*Business matters.*

# WASHINGTON WATCH



March 2021

## Congress Nearing Passage of New COVID-19 Relief Bill

The Democratic-controlled Congress is on the verge of passing a new round of COVID-19 stimulus payments, delivering on a campaign promise by President Biden.

Read more [here](#).



## Minimum Wage Hike All but Dead in New COVID Relief Bill

Democrats' hopes of including a minimum wage increase in their COVID-19 relief bill seemed all but dead as the Senate began debating its own version of the House-passed aid package.

Read more [here](#).



## Biden Team to Use 'All Available Tools' to Fight China's Unfair Trade Practices

President Biden's administration will use "all available tools" to fight China's unfair trade practices, according to a report released by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Read more [here](#).



## U.S. Infrastructure Grade Rises, But Funding Gap Widens

The American Society of Civil Engineers Infrastructure Report Card finds that U.S. infrastructure has shown improvement in the past several years, but the gap in funding needs has

widened.

Read more [here](#).



## Biden Vows Enough Vaccine for All U.S. Adults by End of May

President Biden said the U.S. expects to take delivery of enough coronavirus vaccine for all adults by the end of May – two months earlier than anticipated.

Read more [here](#).



## U.S. Manufacturing Surges to Three-Year High in February

U.S. manufacturing activity increased to a three-year high in February amid a surge in new orders.

Read more [here](#).



## Climate Extremes Threaten Energy Systems Across U.S.

Climate extremes are wreaking increasing havoc on energy systems across the U.S., regardless of local politics or the particulars of regional grids.

Read more [here](#).



## Biden Faces Steep Challenges to Reach Renewable Energy Goals

The Biden administration has an ambitious agenda for expanding renewable energy, but major challenges stand in the way, including rebuilding jobs and navigating the pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



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## Fraud Overwhelms Pandemic-Related Unemployment Programs

States are being hammered with fraud as they scramble to update security systems and block scammers who have siphoned billions of dollars from pandemic-related jobless programs.

Read more [here](#).



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## Biden Team Readies Wider Economic Package After Virus Relief

Looking beyond the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill, President Biden and lawmakers are laying the groundwork for a long-sought boost to the nation's infrastructure.

Read more [here](#).



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## New U.S. Navy Vessels Part of Sweeping Force Redesign

A new class of U.S. Navy vessel that can pull onto beaches is expected to be deployed for the first time in Hawaii as part of a sweeping force redesign.

Read more [here](#).



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## Orders for U.S. Durable Goods Climb for Third Month in Row

Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket goods shot up 3.4 percent in January, pulled up by a surge in orders for civilian aircraft.

Read more [here](#).



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Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas  
1200 W. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201  
P.O. Box 3645, Little Rock, AR 72203  
501-372-2222 | [arkansasstatechamber.com](http://arkansasstatechamber.com)