

TRADE UPDATE Food & Agriculture



September 28, 2021

Provided by CRA

HIGHLIGHTS

- **U.S. – China:** Ambassador Tai said the U.S. will continue to pressure China to fulfill its obligations under the phase one agreement as the deal is formally set to expire this December. Tai also mentioned possibly exploring Trade and Investment Framework Agreements with ASEAN countries as many lawmakers and industry groups raise concerns as China formally seeks admission to CPTPP, aiming to deepen its economic and trade influence in the region.
- **USMCA:** The USMCA complaint by USTR on unfair labor practices against a General Motors plant in Mexico has been successfully resolved avoiding potential tariffs against Mexico.
- **U.S. – U.K.:** U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson acknowledged that the Biden administration is focused on domestic policies and controlling the pandemic, but said the UK stands ready to reengage on formal trade talks. Johnson also reported that the U.S. agreed to lift a ban on lamb imports from the UK resulting from his visit with President Biden in Washington, DC last week.
- **Section 232:** The Commerce Department initiated a Section 232 investigation on imports of neodymium-iron-boron permanent magnets over national security concerns, the Biden administration first Section 232 action.
- **WTO:** India and several other developing countries proposed revised carveouts to the fisheries subsidies text that exemplify the continuing divide on ambitions to curb harmful subsidies.
- **Biden Nominees:** The Senate last week confirmed both Jayme White and Sarah Bianchi as Deputy U.S. Trade Representatives (see Trade and Agriculture Nominee Tracker at last page).

Quote: “The reality is that Joe [Biden] has a lot of fish to fry.” He’s got a ‘Build Back Better’ package. We want to do it, but what we want is a good free trade agreement. And I would much rather get a deal that really works for the UK than get a quick deal.” (UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson commenting on prospects of U.S.-UK trade talks)

USMCA

- The U.S. labor complaint concerning irregularities in a General Motors plant union vote has been successfully [concluded](#), eliminating the potential threat of tariffs against Mexico. The U.S. had initially opened the case after workers at the GM plant complained their union voting rights were being violated, leading to the nullification of the initial union vote and the rescheduling of a new one in August. This new vote, which resulted in the termination of the current union contract, was deemed free and fair, and USTR will no longer be pursuing the case.
- No significant updates on the USMCA complaint by U.S. energy company Talos Energy Inc. filed under the USMCA over the Mexican government’s move to give authority over a major oil field to state-controlled Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX). According to [Talos](#), the Mexican Energy Ministry (SENER) failed to demonstrate that it considered “the principles of economy, competitiveness, efficiency, legality, transparency, best practices of the industry and the best use of hydrocarbons,” as required under Mexican regulations in making its decision. The Talos’ complaint constitutes the first step under USMCA’s investment chapter requesting consultations though does not presently form the establishment of a dispute panel.
- Mexico and Canada earlier [requested](#) consultations with the U.S. over the interpretation and application of USMCA auto rules of origin, which stipulate 75% North American content is required for a vehicle receiving designation of originating from North America. Mexico and Canada disagree over the U.S.

interpretations of the new rule. They cite differing methodologies to measure the exact percentage of the regional value content of the vehicles, potentially leading to confusion between the countries and among auto companies. Luz María de la Mora Sánchez, Under Secretary for Foreign Trade in Mexico's Economy Secretariat, said that the dispute "is not only about Mexico." "This is about the three countries, because the three of us are integrated and we produce together. So whatever happens to one company in one country will affect the rest." De la Mora emphasized that Mexico will "work very hard" to seek an understanding via the process with the U.S. but didn't rule out the possibility of a dispute panel.

China Trade

- As reported last week, Senators Bob Casey, Sherrod Brown, and Elizabeth Warren [introduced](#) the "Market Economy Sourcing Act," an amendment to the now-expired Trade Promotion Authority, that aims to curb the use of imported materials from non-market economies from future free trade agreements. Sen. Bob Casey says that "This legislation would establish a supplemental rule of origin—used to determine if products are eligible for duty-free or reduced duties under free trade agreement rules—to limit the content from non-market economies that can be included in FTA qualifying goods." The senators cited China as the main reason for introducing the legislation, saying that content qualifying for preferential treatment should not have components originating from China.
- China recently applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) according to its Ministry of Commerce. Wang Wentao, China's Minister of Commerce, said China submitted a formal application to join CPTPP to New Zealand's Minister of Trade and Export Growth, Damien O'Connor, following a meeting between the two ministers on "follow-up work" related to China's formal application for membership, the Chinese government said in a statement. New Zealand is the depositary for CPTPP.

Phase One Agreement

- Ambassador Tai said the U.S. will continue to pressure China to fulfill its obligations under the phase one agreement as the deal is formally set to expire this December. Speaking at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) conference, Ambassador Tai said, "I want everyone to know that my staff here continues to work with China to implement its commitments under the phase-one agreement, including those related to agricultural market access and purchases." "We have been conducting a comprehensive review of the U.S.-China trade relationship at USTR and the U.S.-China relationship more broadly across the administration; trade is a key pillar of this relationship and therefore of the review." Tai continued, "We know that this is one of the most consequential relationships of our time, so it is worth our taking the time to get it right." Industry groups coping with the U.S. section 301 tariffs covering \$370 billion in imports from China, or China's retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports, are concerned with the uncertainty of China's imports for agriculture, energy and manufactured goods when the agreement expires at the end of 2020. While the phase one deal contemplates, these purchases may "continue in calendar years 2022 through 2025," it's unclear whether China would concur.
- Secretary Vilsack recently expressed optimism that China's strong agriculture purchases will continue beyond 2021. "I've had conversations with my counterpart in China and I think at this point in time the expectation is that we're going to continue to see purchases," Vilsack told the *Farm Journal*. "China needs us, they need the food we can supply, so I think there is an economic and food imperative on their part, and I think it makes good sense for us to be able to maintain some degree of connection with China."
- According to August 2021 Census data, U.S. agricultural exports under the phase one agreement to China totaled \$17.8 billion. This compares to a needed pace of \$20.2 billion in agriculture exports for the year 2 goal to be reached. Cumulative agriculture phase one product exports to China in the 8 months of 2021 presently are 12% below the pace estimated to meet 2021 purchase commitments under the deal. In a year-over-year comparison, China has closed the gap considerably from a 42% lag in August 2020 to 12% presently.

U.S.-China Phase 1 Tracker for Agriculture Products

U.S. Exports to China, and Pace Needed to Meet Phase 1 Commitment in Year 2, Billion Dollars



Source: USTR, GTIS, U.S. Census Bureau, Farm Bureau Calculations



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Section 301

- Recently, American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA) sent a [letter](#) to Ambassador Tai requesting relief from the continued use of Section 301 tariffs. AAFA writes that the tariffs are causing deep damage to shipping, leading to “Out of control freight rates and historic log jams at US ports are creating delays and costs that are wreaking havoc on supply chains.” To help alleviate these issues, the letter calls on USTR to reinstate Section 301 exclusions and suspend collection of 301 tariffs. This would help bring millions of dollars to businesses hardest hit by the tariffs the letter noted.
- Chinese officials are urging the Biden Administration not to pursue a new U.S. Section 301 investigation into China’s subsidy practices, a move that would further strain trade ties. Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Qin Gang said, “To be frank, the difficulties and uncertainties in China-U.S. trade and business cooperation are not from the Chinese side.” “We want to do more business with you, but the problem is how can we be allowed to do business as usual?” He highlighted the phase one trade deal and that “China has been faithfully implementing the agreement despite the pandemic and has made positive progress in enhancing [intellectual property rights] protection and expanding market access of agricultural products and the financial sector,” as illustrative of China’s commitment to improving the bilateral trade relationship. In contrast he noted the U.S. has put “more than 900 Chinese entities on various lists of restrictions. This has directly affected Chinese companies' ability and willingness to purchase from the US and has had a negative impact on the implementation of the agreement.”
- Several recent reports indicate that USTR and the Biden administration are reviewing new avenues to combat China’s unfair trade practices, including a section 301 investigation. According to one [report](#), Tai and other administration officials are meeting to discuss China trade issues, such as a new 301 investigation, the phase one deal, different enforcement actions and a general path forward for the U.S. tariffs on China.
- Separately, the Biden administration remains silent on whether it will reinstate a section 301 inclusion process amidst growing calls from business groups seeking relief from China’s retaliatory tariffs, an action prompted by the Trump administration’s section 301 tariffs in 2018 on nearly \$370 billion of goods from China.

Section 232 Investigations

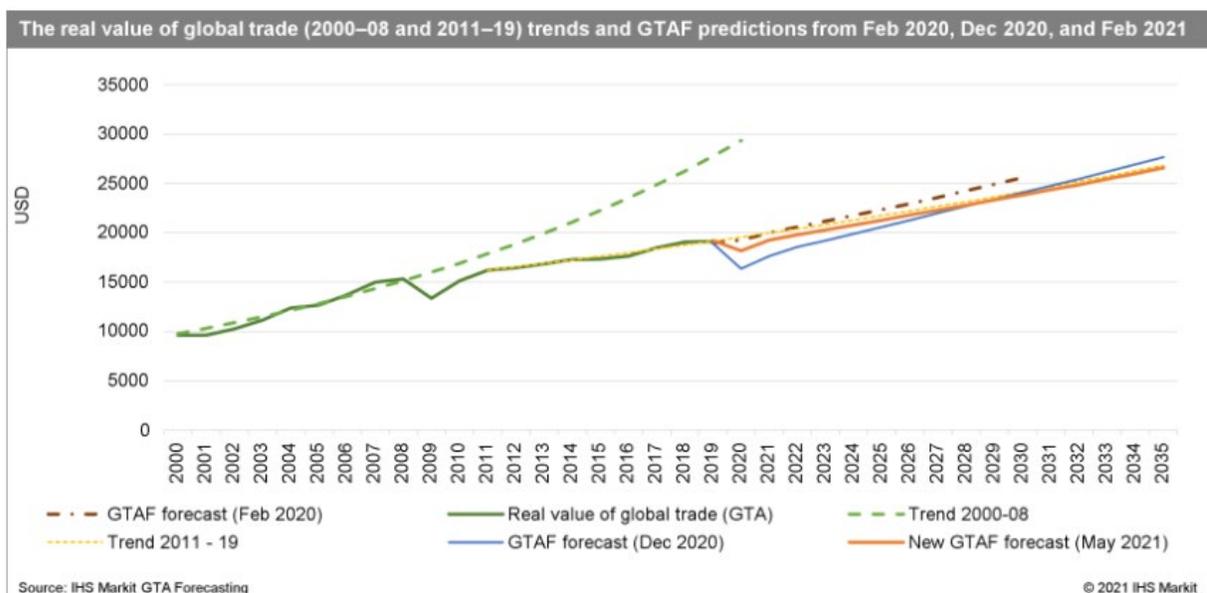
- The Commerce Department initiated a Section 232 investigation on imports of neodymium-iron-boron permanent magnets over national security concerns last Friday. Secretary Raimondo said in a [statement](#), “The Department of Commerce is committed to securing our supply chains to protect our national

security, economic security, and technological leadership.” “Consistent with President Biden’s directive to strengthen our supply chains and encourage investments to shore up our domestic production, the Department initiated a Section 232 investigation on imports of NdFeB permanent magnets to determine whether U.S. reliance on imports for this critical product is a threat to our national security.” The announcement marks Biden’s first Section 232 investigation, but a more targeted application (see below) of the “national security” provision in the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, after six Section 232 investigations under the prior administration. Neodymium magnets are made of rare earth elements and used to make critical infrastructure components, military systems, magnetic resonance imaging machines, computer parts and car engines, among other products. As noted the *Federal Register* [notice](#), Commerce is inviting public comment on the investigation.

- The Biden administration may take a much narrower view of Section 232 authority according to recent congressional testimony. Alan Estevez, Biden’s nominee to lead the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), said during his confirmation hearing that the Section 232 statute used by the Trump administration to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum “should only be used for the strictest national security means.” Responding to a question from Senator Pat Toomey during the hearing, Estevez said, “Section 232 needs to be looked at in a hard national security lens, senator. It shouldn’t be used willy-nilly.” Section 232 investigations, under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 are conducted by BIS “to determine the effects of imports of any article on the national security of the United States.”
- Section 232 authority was rarely used prior to President Trump, who initiated six Section 232 investigations – steel, aluminum, autos and auto parts, transformers, uranium ore, titanium, and vanadium. Of the six products, only vanadium was not found to threaten national security according to the BIS reports. In 2018, the Trump administration imposed tariffs of 25% and 10% on steel and aluminum imports, respectively, but declined formal action on the other investigated imported products.

COVID-19 Developments

- Global trade is becoming broader and more sustainable according to estimates by Global Trade Atlas (GTA) forecasting. GTA predicts the real value of global trade to rise to \$19,247 billion in 2021 and \$19,824 billion in 2022. That translates into a year-on-year increase in the real value of global trade by 6.0% in 2021 and 3.0% in 2022.



U.S. - U.K. Trade

- President Biden and U.K. Prime Minister Johnson, meeting in Washington, DC last week, agreed to continue working toward deep trade ties, including a bilateral trade pact. Johnson acknowledged that the Biden administration is focused on domestic policies, the economic recovery and controlling the

pandemic, but said the UK stands ready to reengage on formal trade talks. Johnson also reported that the U.S. agreed to lift a ban on lamb imports from the United Kingdom. Johnson told reporters, “I can tell you today that what we are going to get from the United States now is a lifting of the ban, the decades-old ban -- totally unjustified and discriminating against British farmers -- the ban on British lamb.” Johnson emphasized that lifting the import ban was illustrative of important “incremental steps on trade” has the Biden administration has paused pursuit of new trade agreements.

- Last week Ambassador Tai met virtually with her new UK counterpart Anne-Marie Trevelyan. According to a USTR [readout](#) on the meeting, “Ambassador Tai and Secretary of State Trevelyan discussed the upcoming G7 trade ministerial, U.S.-UK bilateral trade issues, and agreed to continue the productive conversations between the two countries to address the shared challenges posed by the market distorting practices of China and other non-market economies. They agreed to maintain robust and sustained dialogue on these and other issues in the days ahead.”
- Anne-Marie Trevelyan, this month became the new Secretary of State for International Trade, replacing Liz Truss who has been promoted to the role of Foreign Secretary of the U.K. Trevelyan will lead the Department for International Trade (DIT) as it pursues new free trade agreements and promotes U.K. exports. “Ms. Trevelyan is joining at a pivotal time. With the UK’s trade policy capability now firmly established, we need to move into a new phase in which we will look to build on our undoubted strengths and grow the UK’s share of world trade, as well as the number of U.K. businesses who trade internationally,” the U.K. government said in a [statement](#).
- The dimming prospects of restarting U.S.-UK trade talks has prompted UK officials to examine alternative plans to deepen trade ties between two countries. In a move that would mark a re-orientation of trade away from Europe, *The Financial Times* reported that UK ministers exploring applying to join USMCA. “There are a variety of different ways to do this,” one senior government figure said. “The question is whether the US administration is ready. The ball is in the US’s court. It takes two to tango.” In addition to the USMCA, the UK officials are reportedly examining whether the UK could deepen trade ties with the U.S. via the CPTPP. The U.K. applied to join the CPTPP earlier this year, while the Biden administration recently mentioned possible consideration of exploring entrance into the CPTPP.
- Representative Brendan Boyle (D-PA) severely questioned the notion of the UK joining USMCA. According to the [Irish Times](#), Boyle said, “I have never heard of it and it has never been discussed once in the Ways & Means Committee,” he said, according to the report. “I have had extensive talks with our U.S. Trade Representative, and, to my understanding, this isn’t even a matter for consideration or on the agenda.” Boyle told the BBC he hadn’t heard “[one word](#)” about the UK joining USMCA, “It is just not a subject that ever comes up here,” he said.
- Another hurdle to restarting U.S.-UK trade talks are increasing tensions over Northern Ireland. Nancy Pelosi recently warned there will be no trade deal between the UK and U.S. if Brexit tensions between Britain and the EU damage peace in Northern Ireland. Pelosi told the Chatham House think tank during a visit to London that her comment was “not a threat, it’s a prediction.” Pelosi also met UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Downing Street, just days before the prime minister is set to meet U.S. President Joe Biden in the White House. Ambassador Katherine Tai continues to reiterate that USTR is assessing the progress of previous negotiating rounds under bilateral trade talks with the U.K. and Kenya that started under the Trump Administration.



Brendan Boyle, U.S. Congressman (D-PA)

U.S. – EU Trade

- Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack suggested the U.S. and the EU might pursue smaller trade deals on agricultural products given lack of interest in a more comprehensive trade deal. “I don’t think you give up on this. I think you just understand that there are multiple ways to potentially expand access to markets,” Vilsack said at a recent event. Vilsack noted other “opportunities where individual issues are resolved by give and take ... and that’s what we’re engaged in now,” mentioning the mini-EU-U.S. agreement on lobsters. Vilsack noted the imbalanced transatlantic trade in agriculture, a \$17 billion deficit for the U.S. and opined that the EU was not eager presently to engage in broad trade deal.

- The upcoming U.S.-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) appears on track after a rocky week in U.S. – French relations over a U.S. arms deal with Australia. Prior to kerfuffle, the EU warned the meetings should not become an anti-China forum or used as a platform for confronting China’s trade practices. EU officials have been identifying areas in which the council can produce real results, David Ringrose, deputy director general at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology. EU officials contend the U.S., and the EU should target deliverables in the areas of semiconductors and standards-setting at the first council meeting, some issues -- including a digital Privacy Shield framework successor as well as foreign policy discussions on China -- are not on the agenda for the council.
- The first ever TTC will be held in Pittsburg, PA on September 29th, the White House [announced](#) earlier. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Ambassador Katherine Tai will host European Commission Executive Vice Presidents Margrethe Vestager and Valdis Dombrovskis. Ten working groups have been established under the TTC to address issues including technology standards cooperation, supply chain security, climate and green technology, ICT security and competitiveness, data governance and technology platforms, the misuse of technology threatening security and human rights, export controls, investment screening, global trade challenges, and access to, and use of, digital technologies by small and medium enterprises. The TTC was created with the aim of expanding and deepening trade and transatlantic investment ties and updating the rules of the road for the 21st century economy.

CPTPP

- Taiwan has applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) according to Taiwan’s Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi. Taiwan formal application to join the CPTPP to New Zealand, the depositary for the agreement comes one week after China announced its application. Taiwanese Economy Minister Wang Mei-hua Taiwan has been making preparations to join CPTPP. Wang noted that China’s “sudden” move to join the CPTPP will certainly raise attention to China’s trade policies and practices, which Wang said don’t align with free market and economic principles. She further suggested China may not meet CPTPP’s high standards and that “friction” exists between China and some CPTPP member states. Taiwan’s is the third country, after the UK and China, in the past few months to seek membership in the CPTPP.
- China’s formal request to join CPTPP in the past few weeks has heightened deep concerns over China’s aggressive trade and economic influence in the region. Last week, Senators Carper and Cornyn said the development was “troubling” and doubled down on their call for the U.S. to reconsider joining CPTPP. “For quite some time, we have been warning about China’s subtle yet deliberate moves to join the CPTPP – the very trade pact crafted to counter China’s trade influence that the United States mistakenly walked away from,” the two senators said in a statement. “We’ve long believed that United States trade leadership is critical for our country’s economy and national security – and it’s clear that China is not waiting to assert itself in the region. The U.S. cannot afford to continue waiting in the hallway – we must get our seat back at the table to re-engage our Asia Pacific allies in trade.”
- Earlier in the year Carper and Cornyn penned an [opinion piece](#) in the *Washington Post* contending the U.S. should take a leadership role in the Asia Pacific region, especially with China intending to join the CPTPP. “Compromises are made in any trade deal, and the TPP was no different,” the senators wrote. “But to even have a shot at writing the rules, you need a seat at the table. Right now, the United States is waiting in the hallway.”
- Sen. Rob. Portman (R-OH) raised concerns of China potentially joining CPTPP and its impact on other key U.S. trade partners. He warned that CPTPP countries should “recognize the dangers of doing a trade agreement with an anti-free market, techno-nationalist country like China.” Portman noted he was “very worried” about the implications of China’s accession to CPTPP for USMCA. According to [Article 32.10.5](#) of the USMCA, USMCA members may terminate the agreement if another enters into a free trade agreement with a “non-market” country. Portman continued, we “cannot lose all the gains we made in USMCA to



Wang Mei-hua, Taiwan's Economy Minister

support American farmers, workers, and businesses.” “So I hope the administration is working closely with Mexico and Canada to protect USMCA.”

U.S. – Kenya Trade

- While the Biden Administration continues its review of the Kenyan FTA negotiations made under the Trump Administration, many business groups and lawmakers are complaining about a lack of clarity from the current administration. Scott Eisner, president of the U.S.-Africa Business Center at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce discussed that while the U.S. and Kenya are “keeping the channels open” during the review, the length and lack of clarity throughout the review has sparked concern of a “drift” occurring between the two countries. Eisner says that the Biden Administration, while still not giving any indication on its conclusion of the review, is giving “encouragement that the technical teams continue some sort of conversation.”
- As noted earlier, seven Republican senators, led by Senator Jim Inhofe, sent a [letter](#) to Ambassador Tai to prioritize the resumption of negotiations towards a bilateral free trade agreement with Kenya. The August 20th letter cited many benefits for a potential U.S.-Kenya FTA. First, the senators cited how the agreement would further relationships in Africa, building upon relationships already developed through AGOA, as well as help serve as a model for FTAs with other African countries. Second, there are numerous economic opportunities that could come with opening trade with Kenya, a nation that has an average GDP growth of 5.8 percent. Finally, the senators discussed how closer African ties would strengthen U.S. security interests in the region. The senators' stated “A U.S.-Kenya FTA presents substantial long-term benefits for the United States, Kenya and the Horn of Africa.”
- Started under the Trump administration, U.S.– Kenya talks are indefinitely paused as Biden administration reviews progress on the two rounds of trade negotiations with Kenya in 2020. USTR Katherine Tai earlier indicated she is reviewing the negotiations to “ensure that any agreement aligns with the Biden-Harris Administration’s Build Back Better agenda,” according to a USTR [statement](#). Earlier USDA Secretary Vilsack expressed his optimism that the Biden Administration will move forward with the Kenya trade talks although he did not specify a time frame.

U.S.-ASEAN Trade

- Ambassador Tai is exploring Trade and Investment Framework Agreements with ASEAN countries as a way to expand trade relations between the U.S. and Southeast Asian nations. Tai last week met with members of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council to discuss trade opportunities with the ASEAN member countries, as well as reiterate USTR’s support to deepen ties in the region. Greater trade relations with the ASEAN member countries have been touted by the Biden Administration as a way to counter China in the region. The administration specifically [discussed](#) digital trade agreements in July, which was recently brought up by Ambassador Tai along with other forms of trade.

Biden Transition

- The Senate last week confirmed both Jayme White and Sarah Bianchi as Deputy U.S. Trade Representatives, the highest agency leadership positions behind Ambassador Katherine Tai. Finance Committee staff member Jayme White was confirmed by an 80-18 vote. White’s portfolio will include the Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, labor and environment. Commenting on White’s Senate confirmation, Ambassador Tai [stated](#), “His intellect and understanding of the key issues are second-to-none, but he also asks the thoughtful questions about how the policies we develop in Washington will affect workers across the country. I am thrilled that he is bringing that talent to USTR and look forward to working with him.”
- Sarah Bianchi was confirmed a day after White’s confirmation by a vote of 85-11. Bianchi, an aide to Biden when he was vice president as well as in the private sector, is expected to take on the portfolios for Asia, Africa, investment, services, textiles and industrial competitiveness. In conjunction with the confirmation, Senate Finance Committee Chair [Ron Wyden](#) (D-Ore.) said on the



Jayme White, Deputy USTR

Senate floor that “The Senate cannot afford to leave this important deputy USTR role open any longer. We have a top-notch nominee before us. I support her fully.” The two other Deputy USTR nominees, María Pagán, ambassador to the World Trade Organization, and Christopher Wilson, chief for intellectual property, are awaiting scheduling of a confirmation hearing (see Nominee Tracker, last page).

- As reported earlier, President Biden intends to nominate Elaine Trevino to serve as Chief Agricultural Negotiator at the Office of USTR. Ms. Trevino presently serves as the president of the Almond Alliance of California, a trade association that “advocates on regulatory and legislative issues in areas of international trade, food safety, water quality and availability, crop protection, air quality, worker safety, supply chain and feed quality,” the White House said in the [announcement](#). Trevino is a former deputy secretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, where she was responsible for the oversight of international export and trade programs. She also is a member of the Agriculture Department’s Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee. The White House statement noted, “As the leader of an organization that advocates for California’s leading agricultural export, Elaine understands tariff and nontariff barriers to trade and the importance of maintaining America’s strong trade agreements and global positioning.” The statement added that Trevino has experience addressing retaliatory tariffs, technical sanitary and phytosanitary barriers as well as port congestion and supply chain disruptions.

WTO

- India and several developing countries from Africa and the Caribbean last week proposed revised carveouts to the fisheries subsidies text that exemplify the continuing WTO divide on ambitions to curb harmful subsidies. The divide, largely on developing and developed countries lines, rests largely on special and differential treatment for developing countries, the later seeking latitude and exemptions for their nascent or smaller fishing industries. For example, in the latest proposal India proposed removing any time and geographic limit in the text’s exception to subsidy prohibitions for artisanal and subsistence fishers as well as the prohibition on certain subsidies that contribute to overfishing. Rather, India seeks a provision for self-determination on overfishing. Several African countries proposed a de minimis threshold in place of the artisanal fishing exemption, arguing such a provision provided more balance to the existing negotiating text.
- The U.S., EU and several other developing countries generally oppose special carveouts in the fisheries negotiations. The fisheries talks are a critical component of the 12th ministerial conference (MC12) agenda. Countries involved in the talks have said they want a deal finalized before MC12 on November 29th. It’s unclear whether the most recent developing country proposals will widen or close the gap in the current fisheries talks.
- WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala will visit Washington and New York to meet with key officials hoping to ensure a positive outcome at the 12th ministerial conference (MC12) in Geneva, as large gaps in remain in several negotiating areas. With less than three months until MC12, WTO members and leadership are increasingly attempting to manage expectations for modest outcomes. The uncertainty of the global pandemic, which remains uncontained in many countries and new surges of COVID variants may complicate the planned in-person MC12 meetings in Geneva, Switzerland during Nov. 30th thru December 3rd. The primary outcome WTO leaders are expecting will revolve around fishery subsidies, responding to the pandemic and mitigating its impact on global trade, and agriculture subsidies and transparency, according to reports.
- The WTO [has decided](#) to hold their ministerial conference (MC12) in-person, formally sending a letter inviting representatives to Geneva with some restrictions. According to the letter, each country's delegation size will be limited to just four representatives, and each meeting will only be able to include two of those four representatives. The current details surrounding the meeting could still change though depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.

Trade & Agriculture Nominee Tracker

STATUS REPORT

BIDEN TRADE & AGRICULTURE NOMINEES

U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

-  **KATHERINE TAI**
U.S. Trade Representative
-  **MARIA LUISA PAGAN**
Deputy U.S. Trade Representative and Representative of the U.S. to the World Trade Organization, Geneva
-  **CHRISTOPHER WILSON**
Deputy U.S. Trade representative - Intellectual Property
-  **SARAH BIANCHI**
Deputy U.S. Trade Representative
-  **JAYME WHITE**
Deputy U.S. Trade Representative
-  **ELAINE TREVINO**
Chief Agricultural Negotiator

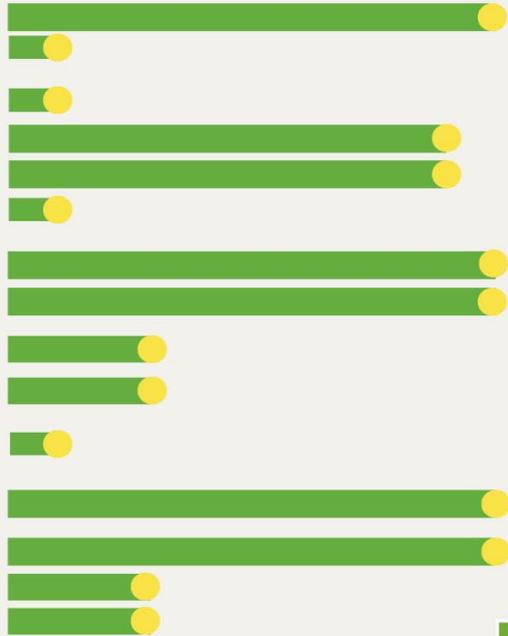
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

-  **GINA RAIMONDO**
Secretary, Department of Commerce
-  **DON GRAVES**
Deputy Secretary, Department of Commerce
-  **THEA KENDLER**
Assistant Secretary for Export Administration
-  **ARUN VENKATARAMAN**
Assistant Secretary for Global Markets and Director General for the United States and Foreign Commercial Service
-  **MARISA LAGO**
Undersecretary for International Trade

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

-  **TOM VILSACK**
Secretary, Department of Agriculture
-  **JEWEL H. BRONAUGH**
Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture
-  **ROBERT BONNIE**
Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation
-  **CHAVINDA JACOBS-YOUNG**
Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics
-  **NO NOMINEE**
Undersecretary of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

Announced At the Senate Senate Hearing Committee Vote Confirmation Sworn In



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

-  **JENNY MOFFITT**
Undersecretary for Marketing & Regulatory Programs
-  **NO NOMINEE**
Undersecretary for Food Safety

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

-  **NO NOMINEE**
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

-  **JOSE W. FERNANDEZ**
Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment

Announced At the Senate Senate Hearing Committee Vote Confirmation Sworn In

