



## November 13, 2020 Volume 1, Nr. 11

The wheels of democracy are beginning to accelerate as the transition process between administrations picks up pace. As with each successive change in White House resident, the committees and advisors tapped to set agendas, policies and identify new Cabinet secretaries and senior leadership take shape.

The President's factually inaccurate assertion of the results aside, the Biden Harris team has begun to do the same and have [published the lists](#) of committee participants across Cabinet-level departments, agencies, and executive offices. Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.) [is a possible replacement](#) for Robert Lighthizer as US Trade Representative.

### Links and stories of interest:

#### [When Pigs Fly, They Want Drinks, Leg Room](#)

Airlines are shipping more live animals, helping cover the drop in passenger flights; making sure the giraffes don't 'bump their heads'

#### [BP Agents Save Woman From Burning Vehicle](#)

The men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol often they start their days as law enforcement officers and end them as medical first responders.

---

## Government Actions and Trade

#### [On America's Farms, Worries About Regulation, Hope for Trade Deals Under Biden](#)

U.S. farmers have been struggling with low commodity prices and trade disruptions.

#### [Domestic Industry Group Calls for China-Wide Withhold Release Order](#)

A withhold release order aimed at goods from China's Xinjiang region wouldn't go far enough in the fight against forced labor, according to the Coalition for a Prosperous America.

### **Plans for Trump Tariffs in New Administration Remain Unclear**

There's much still unknown about how and when an unwinding of the Trump administration's policies would occur...

### **Economic/Cultural Vitality Provides Base for More Growth in Win-Win Partnership**

A View from the Republic of Korea.

### **Agents Halt an Attempt to Circumvent Border Patrol Checkpoints**

Laredo North Station Border Patrol agents prevented a human smuggling plot attempting to circumvent the Border Patrol checkpoints on Interstate Highway 35 and U.S. Highway 83 (US-83) north of Laredo.

### **CBP to Introduce Biometric Facial Comparison to Secure and Streamline Travel at Cross Border Xpress and Tecate**

The technology will enhance the identity verification process for lawful entry into the United States.

### **CBP in Minneapolis Seize Cell Phone Accessories Worth Over \$41,000**

Due to various inconsistencies, poor quality, and the incorrect packaging, the items were sent and inspected by an import specialist who determined the items were counterfeit and were seized.

### **United States Responds to European Union Tariff Announcement**

As part of a 16-year-old litigation involving large civil aircraft, the EU alleged that a certain Washington State tax provision benefited Boeing.

### **USTR Statement on Successful Conclusion of Steel Negotiations with Mexico**

Mexico and the United States concluded consultations addressing the transshipment of grain-oriented electrical steel (GOES).

---

## **Join us for our next webinar!**

November 18th from 10:00 - 11:30 PST join us for "Customs: How CBP is responding to challenging times with the trade" featuring CBP's Jorge Garcia and Carmen Perez and moderated by Anne Hilsabeck. Click on the image to download the event flier.

Members: \$25.00

Non-members: \$45.00

Sponsorship available: \$200.00

**REGISTER TODAY**

## Customs How US Customs and Border Protection is Responding to Challenging Times with the Trade: Focus on CBP's Electronics Center of Excellence & Expertise and CBP's New Trusted Trader Program

### Ticket Prices

\$25 for membership and  
\$45 for non-members  
\$200 Sponsorship Available

Date: November 18, 2020  
Time: 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. PST  
Location: Zoom Webinar

[Register Here](#)

Please join us for this valuable discussion that will cover topics such as:

- Managing Work in the CEE and within the Port
- How to effectively work with the CEE
- Update on the Divisions within the CEE (Partnership Division, Validation and Compliance Division, Enforcement Division)
- Looking Ahead with CBP in 2021
- Managing Work in the CEE Trade Remedies, Protests & Petitions, Reconciliation, Requests for Information
- Progress Report on CBP's Trusted Trader Program
- CTPAT Trade Compliance Portal Update



**JORGE E. GARCIA**  
Center Director, Electronics Center of Excellence and Expertise (L.A.)  
U.S. Customs & Border Protection



**CARMEN E. PEREZ**  
Branch Chief, Trade Compliance  
Office of Field Operations  
U.S. Customs & Border Protection



**ANNE HILSABECK**  
Founder & President  
AMH Customs Consultants

[www.foreigntradeassociation.com](http://www.foreigntradeassociation.com)

888-223-6459

[info@foreigntradeassociation.com](mailto:info@foreigntradeassociation.com)



Event Sponsor:  
**BRAUMILLER**  
LAW GROUP, PLLC  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

## Customs Proposal for Continuing Education Requirements for Customs Brokers

Ticket Prices  
\$25 for membership and  
\$45 for non-members

Date: December 1, 2020  
Time: 1:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. PST  
Location: Zoom Webinar

[Register Here](#)

US Customs & Border Protection published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on Oct. 29, 2020 on continuing education requirements for Customs brokers. This webinar will cover what is being proposed in this announcement, including:

- Continuing education hours requirement
- What classes and webinars are eligible and accredited
- How the requirement will be documented and submitted
- What if continuing education requirement is not met
- CBP's solicitation of input on proposal
- How to submit comments and suggestions



**BRUCE H. LEEDS**  
Attorney and LCB  
Braumiller Law Group PLLC

Bruce Leeds is Of Counsel to Braumiller Law Group PLLC, a law firm specializing in export and import compliance. He is a board member and past President of the FTA and has taught many classes and webinars for the association. He started his career as an Import Specialist with CBP and went on to export and import compliance positions with Hughes Aircraft Company and The Boeing Company. He is a licensed customs broker and is a Certified Customs Specialist. Mr. Leeds is a US Army veteran.

[www.foreigntradeassociation.com](http://www.foreigntradeassociation.com)

888-223-6459

[info@foreigntradeassociation.com](mailto:info@foreigntradeassociation.com)

## Customs brokers - this one is for you.

December 1st from 1 - 2 PT, Bruce Leeds from Braumiller Law Group PLLC is going to be discussing the impact of continuing education for licensed customs brokers as proposed in the NPRM dated October 29th. Hear what the agency has in mind and share your thoughts with Bruce and learn how to submit your own comments.

Thanks to our sponsor, [Braumiller Law Group](#).

Members: \$25.00

Non-members: \$45.00

**REGISTER TODAY**

## Environmental

### Where's the Sea Ice? Three Reasons the Arctic Freeze is Late This Year

If you've been ignoring climate change and hoping that it will just go away, now would be an appropriate time to pay attention.

### Shipowners Recognized for Slowing to Protect Blue Whales, Blue Skies

The voluntary program is an initiative to cut air pollution and protect endangered whales.

## **U.S. renewable fuels legislation could garner bipartisan support under Biden**

Renewable fuels are a niche market for now, but legislation supporting demand for products like renewable diesel could garner bipartisan support.

## **PRIO Sets Sail with New Biodiesel for the Shipping Industry**

According to PRIO, Eco Bunkers allows for a reduction of up to 18% in CO2 emissions.

## **Organized Crime in the Fisheries Sector Threatens a Sustainable Ocean Economy**

The global community has for years raised concern about the threat of criminality in the fisheries sector.

---

## **FTA call for nominations for the 2021 Board of Directors**

The FTA is conducting its annual call for nominations of members for the 2021 Board of Directors. For those that are not members and wish to be on the board, you must apply for membership first to be able to participate in the election. This is a great opportunity to become a member and take advantage of our current 50% off discount on individual and corporate memberships.

The FTA Board of Directors is responsible for managing and ensuring the future success of the Foreign Trade Association. These responsibilities include the oversight and management of policies, communication strategies, and financial matters. Members of the FTA Board also serve on one, or more, of the seven standing committees. This cycle provides for a constant revitalization of the Board and gives potential Board members a finite number of years to commit their services. The revolving terms also allow other members of the FTA to participate on the Board.

Please help by nominating candidates, of whom you believe will serve the organization well (you may choose to nominate a current FTA Board member whose term is expiring). You are also welcome to self-nominate, as you desire.

**SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TODAY**

## **Maritime**

### **China October Iron Ore Imports Dip**

Weaker seasonal Q4 demand and low profit margins for steelmakers might indicate domestic demand may have peaked.

### **P&O Maritime Logistics Awarded New Project Cargo Contracts**

This contract strengthens P&O's renewable energy credentials and its fleet of efficient RoRo deck carriers servicing the renewables supply chain for both offshore and onshore windfarms.

### **PIL Warns of Likely Collapse if Creditors Reject Restructuring Plan**

If creditors reject the restructuring and PIL is liquidated, it could be the biggest container line failure since the collapse of South Korea's Hanjin Shipping in 2016.

### **Bulk Carrier Beached by Typhoon at Dung Quat Port, Vietnam**

The ship was anchored in port waters after offloading limestone; she was in ballast with high freeboard and her anchor dragged in stormy wind and sea.

### **Huge Congestion at Ports Across Asia, Australia, and the USA**

Ports are now reporting a dearth of equipment, with increasing delays in vessel berthing operations adding to the woe of port authorities.

## **FTA Membership Opportunity**

### **Interested in becoming a member of the Foreign Trade Association?**

The FTA is offering 50% off on Corporate and One Company Representative memberships for new members from now until the end of December.

- Corporate = \$300 (Regularly \$600)
- Individual = \$150 (Regularly \$300)

To qualify as a new member, there must be at least an 18-month lapse from the previous membership. An individual who has left a company that was or is a member is also eligible for this promotion.

Other conditions and restrictions apply. Visit our website to learn more and join today!

[JOIN TODAY](#)

## **Videos of the Week**

### **Jules Verne would be proud**

Dr. Edith Widder and a team of scientists captured the first footage of a live giant squid in U.S. waters. WIRED's Matt Simon spoke with Widder to learn the story behind the video

# RARE GIANT SQUID



**WIRED**

## Logistics and Trade

### **Today's Logistics Report: Rebound on Wheels; Reviving Auto Supply Chains; Alibaba Eyes Payments**

Broad trends in the retail sector are driving a rebound in U.S. freight transportation earnings.

### **Rising US Imports Spur Slew of New Trucking Firms**

The number of new operating authorities issued to US trucking companies is surging alongside imports, but that doesn't necessarily mean truckload capacity is increasing.

### **Container Lines Leaning on Cloud Technology for Digital Differentiation**

Cloud computing is ubiquitous in the world of commerce, and that's spread in recent years to container lines, which are using a migration to platforms like Microsoft Azure to develop products quickly and then scale them back without committing resources to a server infrastructure.

### **Vital World Trade Route Roiled by Container Crunch**

Shortages are plaguing transpacific routes in particular, boosting the purchase price of new containers and lease rates by 50%, snarling port traffic, adding surcharges and slowing deliveries heading into the holidays.

### **Amazon Grows Delivery Network in Brazil's Largest Logistics Push**

The expansion, which comes two months after the U.S. e-commerce giant launched its largest distribution center yet in the country, adds 75,000 square meters to Amazon's logistics infrastructure.



*This week's commentary comes from FTA President Pedro Villanueva.*

This week we find relevant to bring to your attention the ongoing e-commerce negotiations at the World Trade Organization to extend the moratorium to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions. Electronic transmissions are understood to include software, emails, text messages, digital music, movies and video games. This moratorium has been in place since 1998 and WTO members have periodically extended the moratorium. This year it ends on December 31 and it is possible it may not be renewed which will allow governments to impose tariffs to cross-border data flows.

With international trade in turmoil because of the pandemic and trade frictions of late this has not been the most visible issue. However, the WTO decision is very important as it may bring significant impact to the vibrance of worldwide e-commerce if tariffs are imposed by governments around the world.

For more information please look at the following WTO site and the International Chamber of Commerce position to make the moratorium permanent. The FTA supports the ICC position.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/ecom\\_e/ecom\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ecom_e/ecom_e.htm)

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/ecom\\_26oct20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_26oct20_e.htm)

<https://iccwbo.org/publication/icc-wto-plurilateral-negotiations-trade-e-commerce/>



## Got a story idea?

The FTA wants to hear from you! Is there a topic or industry that we're not covering that you'd like to see more of? Drop Mark Hirzel an email by clicking the button below with your suggestions.

[EMAIL MARK TODAY](#)

## Other Upcoming Events

**November 18 - WEBINAR -An update on the CBP Center's for Excellence and Expertise, from Electronics Center Director Jorge Garcia - 10:00 - 11:30 AM PST - [Registration now open here.](#)**

**December 1 - WEBINAR - What you need to know about the proposed Customs Broker Continuing Education Requirements - 1:00 - 2:00 PM PST - [Registration now open here.](#)**

**December 8 - WEBINAR - Getting to know the Centralized Examination**

**Stations of LA/LB, and how to keep your cargo moving through the process** - 1:00 - 2:00 PM PST -Come hear from all three CES sites as they share the 'tips and tricks' that will keep your cargo flowing. [\*More details to follow!\*](#)

**December 17 - WEBINAR - POLB and The Logistical Benefits of the Replacement of the Gerald Desmond Bridge** - 1:00 - 2:00 PM PST -. [\*More details to follow!\*](#)

**January 26 - WEBINAR -Forced Labor in today's global trade environment** - 1:00 - 2:00 PM PST -This webinar will offer a unique perspective to importers looking to create or enhance their forced labor compliance programs. [\*More details to follow!\*](#)