

KING & SPALDING

# Washington Insight



May 21, 2015

## **Trade Promotion Authority Bill Advances**

*Bonnie B. Byers, Thomas J. Spulak*

The Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation to facilitate the consideration of trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) continues to be considered by the U.S. Senate. The TPA bill, while moving toward passage, continues to face procedural impediments. [More »](#)

## **The U.S. Crude Oil Export Ban: An Outdated Relic Of The Past**

*Michael A. Andrews*

The ban on the export of domestic crude oil dates back to a time when members of Congress did not have computers and Richard Nixon was president. Much has changed in the past 40 years. Today, that antiquated law is severely restricting the nation's energy policy and damaging the integrity of American foreign policy. [More »](#)

## **Rocky Road Ahead For FY2016 Appropriations Bills**

*George C. Crawford*

Republicans and Democrats are on a collision course on this year's appropriations bills and the fight boils down to funding levels for non-defense discretionary. As a result of some budget sleight-of-hand in the Budget Resolution, defense spending was increased by \$38 billion while domestic discretionary spending will see a \$20 billion cut to stay under the budget ceilings required by the Budget Control Act. [More »](#)

## **Banking Committee Chairman Introduces the Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015**

*J.C. Boggs*

For more than two decades, each and every Congress has considered and adopted wide-ranging financial services legislation that has significantly altered the legal and regulatory landscape governing financial institutions in the United States. Beginning with passage of the Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987 through subsequent enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, the U.S. Congress has produced major banking legislation about every other year. [More »](#)

## **Slowing President Obama's Cuban Mambo**

Trade Promotion Authority Bill Advances

The U.S. Crude Oil Export Ban: An Outdated Relic Of The Past

Rocky Road Ahead For FY2016 Appropriations Bills

Banking Committee Chairman Introduces the Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015

Slowing President Obama's Cuban Mambo

Patent Litigation Reform Legislation: State of Play

Department of Energy Report Examines Wind Energy's Potential

## **Contacts**

### *Thomas J. Spulak*

In December of last year President Obama announced what many had predicted he wanted to do since his first inauguration day – restore U.S. relations with Cuba. Six years into his presidency and hamstrung by the 1996 Helms-Burton Act, which codified President John F. Kennedy's Executive Order establishing the Cuban embargo, President Obama went as far as he could through his own Executive Order to remove impediments to U.S. relations with Cuba. [More »](#)

### **Patent Litigation Reform Legislation: State of Play**

#### *William Clarkson*

On April 29, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA), along with fellow Committee members Orrin Hatch (R-UT), John Cornyn (R-TX), Mike Lee (R-UT), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), introduced the Protecting American Talent and Entrepreneurship Act ([S. 1137](#)). Viewed as the Senate counterpart to the Innovation Act ([H.R. 9](#)), the legislation takes a similar approach in targeting abusive patent litigation practices. However, there are notable differences between the bills' primary litigation reform provisions, including those related to pleading requirements, discovery rules, fee shifting, customer stay and post-issuance procedures. [More »](#)

### **Department of Energy Report Examines Wind Energy's Potential**

#### *Lauren M. Donoghue*

Earlier this week, the Department of Energy (DOE) Wind and Water Power Technologies Office released a report examining the potential for wind energy to generate electricity in all 50 states. Wind energy currently provides about 5% of the nation's electricity generation, and DOE believes that wind can be deployed at higher levels once the next generation of larger, taller turbines in development hits the market. The report describes the current state of wind technology and details future technology pathways for technical innovation, while recognizing that addressing environmental, economic, and human use considerations are necessary in order to realize the nation's full wind power potential and value. [More »](#)

---

## **Contacts**

Robert L. Ehrlich  
rehlich@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 9710

Michael A. Andrews  
mandrews@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 5609

Lloyd N. Hand  
lhand@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 2931

Theodore M. Hester  
thester@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 2901

Thomas J. Spulak  
tspulak@kslaw.com  
+1 202 661 7948

J.C. Boggs  
jboggs@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 2383

Eleanor J. Hill  
ehill@kslaw.com  
+ 202 626 2955

Daniel F. Donovan  
ddonovan@kslaw.com  
+ 202 661 7815

George C. Crawford  
gcrawford@kslaw.com  
+ 202 626 2625

Allison F. Kassir  
akassir@kslaw.com  
+ 202 626 5600

Claudia A. Hrvatin  
chrvin@kslaw.com  
+ 202 661 7950

William Clarkson  
wclarkson@kslaw.com  
+ 202 626 8977

Greg H. N. Massoni  
gmassoni@kslaw.com  
+ 202 661 9711

Lauren M. Donoghue  
ldonoghue@kslaw.com  
+ 202 626 8999

## Editorial Contact

Lauren Donoghue  
ldonoghue@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 8999

## Follow @WSHInsight

### About King & Spalding

Celebrating more than 125 years of service, King & Spalding is an international law firm that represents a broad array of clients, including half of the Fortune Global 100, with 800 lawyers in 17 offices in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The firm has handled matters in over 160 countries on six continents and is consistently recognized for the results it obtains, uncompromising commitment to quality and dedication to understanding the business and culture of its clients. More information is available at [www.kslaw.com](http://www.kslaw.com).

The content of this publication and any attachments are not intended to be and should not be relied upon as legal advice. In some jurisdictions, this may be considered "Attorney Advertising." If you are not currently on our [Government Advocacy & Public Policy Practice Group](#) mailing list under your own name, and you would like to join to receive our *Washington Insight* publication and to receive notices of future programs and occasional notices of legal developments in the industry, or wish to be taken off the distribution list for this Newsletter, you can make that request by submitting your contact information to Lauren Donoghue at [ldonoghue@kslaw.com](mailto:ldonoghue@kslaw.com).

© 2014 King & Spalding