

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **USTR to Open Comments for the 2022 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers**
- **Chief Agriculture Negotiator Nominated**
- **Korea Publishes Draft Amendment to Food Labeling Standards for Foods Sold in Their Natural State**
- **Chinese Embassy Makes Submission to Australian Parliament on CPTPP Membership**
- **WTO Organizes Ministerial Conference on Global Plastics Trade and Pollution**

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USTR to Open Comments for the 2022 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers**

- USTR is [scheduled to publish](#) its [request for comments for the 2022 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers \(NTE Report\)](#) on September 15, 2021. The annual report details the most pressing barriers to U.S. exports, including agricultural exports, in markets across the world. The report serves as a reference for USTR engagement with overseas officials during trade negotiations.
- Each comment should include an estimate of the potential increase in U.S. exports that would result from removing any foreign trade barrier the comment identifies.
- Comments are due on October 26, 2021 via [regulations.gov](#) under docket number USTR-2021-0016.

**Chief Agriculture Negotiator Nominated**

- On September 13, the Biden Administration [announced its intent](#) to nominate Elaine Trevino as Chief Agriculture Negotiator for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.
- Trevino currently serves as the President of the Almond Alliance of California (AAC). She previously served as Deputy Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gov. Gray Davis, where she oversaw the California specialty crop block grant funding allocation and international trade programs.
- The Chief Agriculture Negotiator is responsible for leading international negotiations related to trade in agricultural products.

**Korea Publishes Draft Amendment to Food Labeling Standards for Foods Sold in Their Natural State**

- On September 10, South Korea [published a proposed amendment](#) to [the Korean Food Labeling Standards](#) (all documents in Korean). Based on an informal translation, the amendment addresses labeling requirements for foods in their natural state in transparent packaging.
- For foods in their natural state that are not frozen, dried, salted, or heated, and are packaged using transparent packaging that is not vacuum-sealed, the production date, production year, and packaging date may be omitted from mandatory labeling.
- Additionally, in the case of food sold to the final consumer in its natural state and in transparent packaging, where the labeling is displayed on a display box or sign, labeling of each product may be omitted. If the delivery to the final consumer is by mail or courier, the labeling for each product remains mandatory.

*(Continues on next page)*

*Korea Publishes Draft Amendment to Food Labeling Standards for Foods Sold in Their Natural State (continued)*

- The proposed enforcement date for the changes is January 1, 2022.
- Comments on the proposal are due by October 11, 2021 to Ministry of Food and Drug Safety via mail, telephone, or fax. Additional information is provided in the notice.

## **GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:**

### **Chinese Embassy Makes Submission to Australian Parliament on CPTPP Membership**

- China's Embassy in Australia recently made a [submission](#) (includes English translation) to Australia's parliamentary inquiry into membership in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- The Australian Parliament has established a committee to examine the merits of expanding membership of the CPTPP, which currently includes Australia and 10 other countries (Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam).
- The submission reiterates China's interest and makes the case for economic benefits to China and existing members if it were to join the agreement. China is one of several countries that have expressed interest in the CPTPP. In January 2021, the United Kingdom made a formal request to join the agreement. The Biden Administration has said CPTPP would have to be reformed before the U.S. would consider joining.

### **WTO Organizes Ministerial Conference on Global Plastics Trade and Pollution**

- On September 1, environment ministries of Germany, Ghana, Ecuador, and Vietnam convened a Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution at the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- According to a [WTO press release](#), Deputy Director-General Jean-Marie Paugam highlighted the important role of trade in efforts to curb plastic pollution. Members have increasingly used a variety of trade policies to address plastic pollution, including technical requirements, import licenses, and regulatory restrictions. The WTO's [Environmental Database](#) includes 130 trade measures related to this issue from 2009 to 2019, two thirds of which were notified to the WTO in the last four years.
- The high-level meeting was designed to improve understanding and generate new ideas regarding interventions that can be implemented through trade policies to support the transition to a more sustainable plastic economy. Members intend to continue the discussion at the WTO's 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in November 2021 and at the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in 2022.