BCI MONITOR

BRYANT CHRISTIE INC.

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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USTR Requests Comments on Extending Suspension of Port Fees on Chinese Ships

- On October 26, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) published a notice requesting comments on a proposal to further suspend its Section 301 action on China's targeting of the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors. USTR proposes extending the suspension for two months from November 10, 2026, to January 9, 2027.
- The current suspension began on November 10, 2025, and ends on November 9, 2026, following the trade deal announced by the U.S. and Chinese presidents on November 1, 2025 (*BCI Monitor 11-4-25*).
- During the proposed suspension, no party would accrue liability for or pay the fees on maritime transport services, as outlined in the April 23, 2025, notice (as amended October 16, 2025).
- Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. ET on October 30, 2026, under docket USTR-2026-0694 on USTR's electronic portal.

EU Opens Consultation on Rules for Biobased Feedstock in Plastic Packaging

- On October 21, the European Commission (EC) opened a public consultation on a regulation for plastic packaging containing biobased feedstock. The consultation will inform the review required under Article 8 of *Regulation (EU) 2025/40* on packaging and packaging waste (PPWR) (*BCI Monitor 8-4-26*).
- Article 8 of the PPWR requires the EC to review the technological development and environmental performance of biobased plastic packaging by February 12, 2028. Based on that review, the EC must, where appropriate, propose legislation to: 1) set sustainability requirements for biobased feedstock in plastic packaging; 2) set targets to increase its use; 3) allow the Article 7 minimum recycled-content targets to be met with biobased feedstock instead of post-consumer recycled plastic, where suitable recycling technologies for food-contact packaging are not available; and 4) amend the definition of biobased plastic.
- According to the EC, the consultation will gather evidence to inform the review and assess whether further EU action is necessary. It will explore the sustainability of biobased feedstocks, potential measures to increase market uptake, and the relationship between biobased and recycled content. It will also examine definitions, environmental impacts, recycling compatibility, consumer information, and verification.
- Comments can be submitted by January 13, 2027, by filling out an online questionnaire. The EC will publish a draft regulation by the third quarter of 2027 to start the legislative procedure in European Parliament and Council.

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