

# Government Relations/Advocacy Updates

## Federal Government Reopens – For Now

The federal government opened after a historic lengthy partial shutdown affecting over 800,000 federal workers. The CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) has reopened, and other services such as the E-Verify system are up and running. The reopening of the government is not guaranteed to stay however – after President Trump only allowed a temporary three-week extension because no agreement was made regarding the building of a wall along the U.S. and Mexico border. The shutdown is estimated to deflate the economy \$11 billion, although all but \$3 billion should recover once the government is fully reopened according to Forbes' journalist Niall McCarthy.

## U.S. Resumes Trade Talks with China

With just over a month left in the trade war truce between the U.S. and China, the two countries will meet in D.C. during the last week of January to continue negotiations. A delegation consisting of 30 Chinese trade officials led by Vice Premier Liu He will travel to Washington D.C. for the next round of trade negotiations beginning on January 30, 2019. That date is 31 days from the deadline where U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese products are set to increase from 10% to 25%. The U.S. has identified over 140 items it wants China to change in relation to trade policies and practices. The Chinese Vice Premier has been tasked with conveying China's willingness to reform its economy to meet U.S. demands. Although the Chinese Vice Premier is reportedly prepared to offer significant concessions during this round of negotiations, trade experts have expressed little expectation of a major breakthrough resulting from the talks.

*Excerpts from GR Today, written by Maurice Norris of PPAI*