

April 7, 2017

BRT Chairman Dimon Sounds Call for Policies to Boost Economy, Jobs

The United States is an exceptional country but something is holding us back, Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co., said in [his annual letter to shareholders](#), offering policy prescriptions that closely align with Business Roundtable priorities. “Our problems are significant, and they are not the singular purview of either political party,” wrote Dimon, BRT Chairman. “We need coherent, consistent, comprehensive and coordinated policies that help fix these problems.” His recommendations included BRT priorities such as business tax reform, greater planning and investment in infrastructure, and an end to excessive regulations that reduce growth and business formation. Other steps should help more Americans share in the nation’s economic opportunities, he said, citing workforce skills, education and an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit. Dimon spoke later at a Yahoo Finance town hall with MBA students.

Business Roundtable Identifies Ways to Speed Infrastructure Permitting Through FAST-41

In [a letter to Gary Cohn](#), director of the National Economic Council, Business Roundtable identified ways to meet President Trump’s goal of expediting infrastructure permitting under existing law, the 2015 FAST-41 Act. The letter from Mark Costa of Eastman Chemical, Chair of BRT’s Smart Regulation Committee, noted provisions to require concurrent agency reviews, improve federal-state coordination and set clear deadlines. “The Business Roundtable is focused on growing the economy and accelerating the creation of high quality jobs for the American people,” Costa wrote. “Streamlining the process for permitting infrastructure projects using FAST-41 is a way the Administration can quickly make progress towards those shared goals.” (See also [Bloomberg/BNA’s report](#) on the letter.)

Federal Court Issues Final Judgement Striking Portion of Conflict Minerals Rule

District Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the District of Columbia this week issued [a final judgment](#) to strike a section of the Dodd-Frank Act’s conflict minerals rule on First Amendment grounds. Business Roundtable, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers had sued in 2012 to block the requirement that companies report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and state on their websites whether their products “have not been found to be ‘DRC conflict free.’” In January, the [SEC called for comments](#) on its 2014 guidance on the entire rule. BRT [submitted comments in March](#), arguing that the rule’s required reports and other information are not material to investors.

The Top Line – The March employment report [released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) was mixed. While payroll growth disappointed by adding only 98,000 jobs – in part due to a series of winter storms – the unemployment rate declined to 4.5 percent and annual wage growth remained solid. For more analysis, see *The Top Line* below and online [here](#).

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