GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWS ROUND-UP
August 29 – September 1, 2016

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Regulation & Legislation:
Final Version of Entry-Level Driver Training Rule Moves Closer to Publication
Source: Overdrive
Advisers Offer Sleep Apnea Guidelines as FMCSA Considers Health Proposal
Source: Transport Topics
What Construction Companies Need to Know About the Contentious New 'Blacklisting' Rule
Source: Construction Dive
Proposed Rule Would Place Speed Limiters on Large Commercial Vehicles
Source: Safety and Health Magazine
FMCSA Upholds 30-Minute Break Rule Following CVSA Request to Nix it From Hours Regs
Source: Commercial Carrier Journal

Transportation:
Louisiana Taking Close Look at Gasoline Tax, Unchanged in More Than Two Decades
Source: The Advocate
National Competition Recognizes Five Southern States for Excellence in Transportation Infrastructure
Source: AASHTO Journal
Impasse Over Funding N.J. Transportation Projects Prolongs Construction Shutdown
Source: Newsworks
US Commercial Flights Take Off for Cuba After More Than Half-Century
Source: CNN
More Than 35,000 Die Nationally in Traffic Crashes in 2015, Ending 50-Year Trend of Decline
Source: NBC New York

Infrastructure:
New Orleans Roads Require Billions To Fix, Study Shows
Source: New Orleans Advocate
Work to Widen SR-91 Moves Into Full Gear, New Bridges Part of Project
Source: Construction Equipment Guide
Officials Push for New Metro Tunnel, American Legion Bridge Fixes — But Have no Way to Pay
Source: Washington Post

Labor:
Department of Labor Appeals "Persuader Rule" Order
Source: National Law Review
NLRB Enforces Ambush Election Rules.....Then Finds Way Around Them
Source: National Law Review

Early Preparation for 'Blacklisting' Rule
Source: Construction Equipment

Sustainability:
Five Benefits of Building an Eco-Friendly Home
Source: Times-Journal
Engineered Bacterium Turns Carbon Dioxide into Methane Fuel
Source: Scientific American

Resilient Construction:
Mold Threatens to Leave Thousands More Homeless After Louisiana Floods
Source: NBC News
Snow Plows Used in Recovery After Storm Hammers Colorado Springs Area with Floodwaters, Hail
Source: The Gazette
Western Pennsylvanians Begin Cleanup After Strong Storms, Flooding
Source: Trib Live
City Council Stares Down Combustible-Material Specs in Code Amendment
Source: Concrete Products
Hurricane Ready Commercial Properties Are More Profitable in U.S.
Source: World Property Journal
Texas Led States in Natural Disasters Last Year
Source: Emergency Management
Lessons Learned From Irene
Source: WCAX
Hermine Forecast to Hit Florida as a Hurricane
Source: USA Today
Louisiana Lawmakers to Determine Flooding Response
Source: Roll Call

Environment:
Boxer Pushes EPA to Review Asbestos Under New Chemicals Law
Source: Bloomberg
Greater Efficiency Can Address Fracking Concerns
Source: Rigzone
Rounds Questions EPA at Senate Field Hearing in Rapid City
Source: Rapid City Journal
Idaho Seeks Federal Approval to Regulate Water Pollution
Source: Yakima Herald

Economy:
Solid U.S. Consumer Spending Boosts Prospect of Fed Rate Hike
Source: Reuters
Source: Daily Commercial News
Weaker Corporate Profits Cost States Millions
A Building Boom is Driving Economic Growth in Most States
Source: Stateline

Fed's Fischer Says U.S. Job Market 'Very Close' to Full Strength
Source: Reuters

With Fed Nearing Goals, Rate Hikes Could Shield Economy: Rosengren
Source: Reuters

Worker Shortage Hammers Construction Industry as D-FW Booms
Source: Dallas Morning News

Tax Reform:
The Biggest Challenges Facing the Next Treasury Secretary
Source: Bloomberg

Key House Republican to Unveil Sales Tax Plan for Purchases Across State Lines
Source: Wall Street Journal

Republicans Protest Proposed Debt-Equity Tax Rules
Source: Accounting Today

Republicans Renew Opposition To Section 385 Regs
Source: Tax-News

Ryan: EU's $14.5B Tax Ruling Against Apple 'Awful'
Source: The Hill

Regulation Even a Regulator Doesn't Like
Source: Wall Street Journal

Clinton's Talk of Exit Tax for Companies Gathers Steam
Source: Bloomberg

Lew Says Apple's Tax Fight Could Spur Congressional Action
Source: ABC News

White House Says Apple Ruling Unfair
Source: RTE

Government Spending:
Rank-and-File GOP Fear Lame-Duck Vote on Pricy Funding Bill
Source: The Hill

Returning Congress Faces Threat to Remove Billions in Authorized Highway Funding
Source: AASHTO

Politics:
When Politics and Justice Collide: Clinton Case Echoes Gore Probe
Source: USA Today

White Retiree Influx Helps Keep Florida in Play for Donald Trump
Source: Wall Street Journal

Trump Plans Detailed Immigration Talk as Questions Remain
Source: Associated Press

Trump's Race Politics Will Destroy GOP
Source: The Hill

Trump Hovers Over McCain, Rubio U.S. Senate Re-Election Contests
Source: Reuters
In Clinton vs. Trump, Who Is Inspired to Vote?
   Source: Wall Street Journal
Poll: Majority of GOP Voters Wish They Chose Another Presidential Nominee
   Source: The Hill
Senators Return to D.C. for Brief Sessions
   Source: Roll Call
Grassley Opens Door to Lame Duck Action on SCOTUS Nominee
   Source: Roll Call
Rep. Corrine Brown Loses Primary
   Source: Politico
McCain Survives Primary Challenge
   Source: The Hill
Wasserman Schultz Wins Primary Against Sanders-Backed Challenger
   Source: The Hill
Murphy Wins Florida Senate Primary, Setting up Showdown with Rubio
   Source: The Hill
Polls Tighten in Presidential Race
   Source: The Hill
Kentucky Rep. Whitfield to Resign From Congress Next Week
   Source: Roll Call
Both Parties See Risk From Trump Candidacy in Down-Ballot Races
   Source: Wall Street Journal
Trump’s Florida Ground Game Lags as GOP Rides to His Rescue
   Source: Bloomberg
How Trump Charms Wealthy Donors in Private — By Seeking Their Advice
   Source: Washington Post
Donald Trump Tries a Jarring New Style: Diplomatic
   Source: New York Times
Pollsters Fight to Figure Out Trump Phenomenon
   Source: The Hill