



Senate Finance Committee Chairman Says USMCA Unlikely to Pass in 2019

In a floor speech on October 23, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) said that the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) "looked increasingly unlikely" to pass this year. Chairman Grassley accused House Democrats of a lack of urgency in reaching a compromise with the Trump Administration to address their concerns related to labor, environment, intellectual property and enforcement provisions in the USMCA.

Congress is also running out of available floor time to consider the USCMA in 2019 with only two months left on the calendar and the prospect of impeachment proceedings looming in each chamber. Pursuant to the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) process, the USMCA must be approved by the House of Representatives within 60 legislative days after the Administration submits implementing legislation to Congress which it has yet to do. Once it is approved in the House, the Senate has 30 legislative days to vote on passage.