



International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, December 16, 2019

The White House

- The focus of the White House is on the votes, scheduled for this Wednesday, on two Articles of Impeachment in the US House of Representatives.
- The race for the Democratic nomination for President remains very competitive.
<https://www.npr.org/2019/12/16/788334193/npr-marist-poll-on-impeachment-democratic-presidential-candidates>

Congress

- Both Chambers are in session this week.
- The House will vote on the two Articles of Impeachment approved by the House Committee on the Judiciary last week.
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/12/13/trump-impeachment-whats-next-full-house-vote-senate-trial/4407540002/>
- The House is also likely to approve revisions to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) this week.
<https://waysandmeans.house.gov/legislation/markups/markup-h-res-746-and-hr-5430>
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer are engaged in a public debate to determine the scope of the Senate trial that will follow the likely impeachment in the House. <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Senate-GOP-defends-Trump-despite-oath-to-be-14908148.php>
- Senate Republicans reached a deal with House Democrats to keep the federal government funded past this Friday, December 20, 2019.
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/12/politics/deal-in-principle-on-2020-spending-bills-reached/index.html>

Analysis

- As in last week's update, we observe that the impeachment debate has colored all proceedings in Congress. Despite that, Democrats in control of the House will approve revisions to NAFTA, handing President Trump a win but also fortifying themselves against charges from Republican in Congress and on the campaign trail that they achieved nothing in the interest of the country. Similarly, they will need to send The Senate a resolution to keep the government funded that President Trump will sign.