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WASHINGTON WATCH



December 2019

China Warns U.S. on Uighur Bill, Raising Doubts Concerning Trade Deal

China warned that U.S. legislation calling for a tougher response to Beijing's treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority will affect bilateral cooperation.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Factory Activity Contracts for Fourth Straight Month

U.S. factory activity contracted for a fourth straight month in November as new orders slumped to their lowest level since 2012.

Read more [here](#).



Democrats See USMCA Deal Near, Urge Mexico to Accept Compromise

House Democrats said that a deal on the stalled U.S.-Mexico-Canada free-trade agreement is within reach and urged Mexico to accept a compromise.

Read more [here](#).



Impending Health Care Taxes Looming

As the cost of health care continues to rise, three

previously delayed health care taxes are set to go into effect unless Congress acts.

Read more [here](#).



OPEC and Allies Agree To Cut Production To Shore Up Prices

The 14 members of OPEC and a group of allied non-OPEC producers have agreed to deepen production cuts.

Read more [here](#).



Fed Chairman Signals Intent to Keep Interest Rates Steady

With the final 2019 meeting of Federal Reserve policymakers looming, Chairman Jerome Powell signaled that interest rates are unlikely to rise anytime soon.

Read more [here](#).



Consumer Confidence Levels Remain High

Despite a slight decline in consumer confidence in November, confidence levels remain high and should support solid holiday spending.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Restoring Tariffs on Brazil, Argentina Metal Imports

President Trump said he is restoring tariffs on U.S. steel and aluminum imports from Brazil and Argentina.

Read more [here](#).



Senate Confirms Dan Brouillette as Energy Secretary

The U.S. Senate confirmed Dan Brouillette, a former lobbyist for Ford Motor Co., as Energy Secretary, replacing Rick Perry who recently resigned.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Not Ruling Out Imposing Tariffs on Imported Autos

U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the Trump administration has not ruled out imposing tariffs on imported autos.

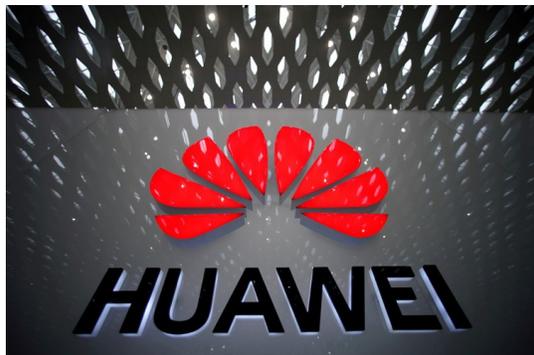
Read more [here](#).



U.S. To Help Developing Countries Say No to Huawei

The U.S. government has warned other nations of the security risks of installing Huawei-made equipment and will now help them with other options.

Read more [here](#).



World Trade Organization Facing Shutdown

The World Trade Organization's appellate body, which gives final rulings on trade disputes, will cease operations Dec. 10 unless the U.S. stops preventing new appointments to the WTO.

Read more [here](#).



Canadian Energy Companies Look to Texas for Opportunities

Texas' friendlier business environment is prompting many Canadian oil and natural gas companies to relocate south of the border.

Read more [here](#).



Bloomberg Intelligence: Oil, Natural Gas Face Long-Term Price Decline

There is no end in sight for the downward pressure on oil and natural gas prices as sentiment and technology shift away from these legacy energy sources.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Achieves Net Oil Exporter Status for First Time in Decades

U.S. exports of crude oil and petroleum products exceeded imports by 89,000 barrels a day in September, making the country a new petroleum exporter for the first time since 1949.

Read more [here](#).



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