TAX

House and Senate Passes Revised IRS Reform Bill, Clearing for President

Key Points:
- The Taxpayer First Act, passed by both the House and the Senate, would preserve the IRS Oversight Board, establish an independent Office of Appeals, and permanently authorize the volunteer income tax assistance program for low-income filers.
- The bill would also limit the ability of private debt collectors to pursue unpaid taxes from low-income Americans and codify an exclusion from upfront fees and initial payments in the offer-in-compromise program for taxpayers with incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Language on the Free Filer program, included in an earlier version and controversial, was removed to ensure passage.

On Thursday, three days after the House passed the bill, the Senate passed the Taxpayer First Act (H.R. 3151) by voice vote. The bill, if signed into law by the President, would preserve the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
Oversight Board, establish an independent Office of Appeals, and permanently authorize the volunteer income tax assistance program for low-income filers. In addition, the bill would also limit the ability of private debt collectors to pursue unpaid taxes from low-income Americans and codify an exclusion from upfront fees and initial payments in the offer in compromise program for taxpayers with incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

Controversial language on the IRS Free Filer program was removed, allowing the House and Senate to pass the revised bill easily and quickly.

Senate Finance Ranking Member Wyden (D-OR) stated; “[o]ur bill includes critical provisions to improve customer service, protect personal data, preserve tax preparation services, and shield low-income taxpayers from abusive private debt collectors.” Senate Finance Chairman Grassley (R-IA) added that the bill is “a big first step towards strengthening taxpayer protections and turning the IRS into the customer service organization it ought to be.”

House Democrats Tax Extender Proposal

**Key Point:**
- Republicans pushed back on a Democrat proposal to extend 27 expired tax provisions that would be paid for by reverting the estate tax thresholds to their pre-TCJA level.
- House Ways and Means Committee could act as early as next week on the tax extenders if there is agreement among Democrats.

Earlier this week, House Democrats met to discuss a legislative package that would extend 27 expired tax provisions retroactively to the beginning of 2017 and through 2020. The proposal would also expand the earned income tax credit (EITC) and the child tax credit (CTC). To offset the cost of the legislation, Democrats may propose reverting the estate tax thresholds to their pre-Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) level. Chairman Neal suggested there was no discussion of a rumored offset to increase the corporate tax rate by one percent.

Republican pushback on the idea came almost immediately. House Ways and Means Ranking Member Brady (R-TX) said Republicans support the EITC and the CTC but argued that the two credits are susceptible to fraud. Senate Republicans would similarly oppose the offsets suggested.

It is possible, but not certain, that the House Ways and Means Committee will move to mark up the package of tax extenders and other changes next week. In all likelihood, such a package if it includes the possible offsets would need to pass with Democratic-only votes; however, the action could start the process for considering the tax extenders in a meaningful way this year.

IRS Releases Final SALT Cap Rule

**Key Points:**
- The IRS released final rules on charitable contributions and SALT credits that require that individual making payments to a charitable organization and receiving a SALT credit in return reduce their federal charitable contribution deduction by the amount of the SALT credit.
- The IRS also issued guidance proposing a safe harbor for itemizers who are under the $10,000 limit.
On June 11, the IRS released final rules on charitable contributions and state and local tax (SALT) credits (T.D. 9864). The regulations require that individuals making payments to a charitable organization and receiving a SALT credit in return reduce their federal charitable contribution deduction by the amount of the state or local tax credit.

In addition, the IRS also issued guidance (Notice 2019-12) proposing a safe harbor for itemizers who are under the $10,000 limit and who would be ineligible to take a federal charitable contributions deduction for payments they make to charitable organizations for which they receive a state tax credit.

Senator Menendez (D-NJ), a Finance Committee member, said the Trump Administration is “closing off every avenue to mitigate the damage” from the TCJA. He argued that the IRS has “allowed these charitable funds for decades and is only now banning them because states like New Jersey sought to utilize them and establish their own.”

For more information about tax issues you may email or call Christopher Hatcher at 202-659-8201. Henry Homans contributed to this section.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

House Financial Services Committee Approves NFIP Reauthorization and Beneficial Ownership Legislation

Key Points:
- The Committee approved a five year reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- It also approved a bill to require the collection of beneficial ownership information, and several housing related bills.

On June 11-12, the House Financial Services Committee held a markup and approved eight financial services bills:

- The National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2019 (H.R. 3167), offered by Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), which would reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and its flood mapping program for five years. The bill includes reforms related to premium affordability, floodplain management, mitigation, and mapping. The Committee favorably reported H.R. 3167, as amended, by a vote of 59-0.
- The National Flood Insurance Program Administration Reform Act of 2019 (H.R. 3111), introduced by Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), which would make changes to the claims process, including providing clarity regarding the terms of flood insurance policies and revising the appeals and litigation process, among other changes. The Committee favorably reported H.R. 3111, as amended, by a vote of 58-0.
- The Corporate Transparency Act of 2019 (H.R. 2513), introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), which would require corporations and limited liability corporations (LLCs) to disclose their true “beneficial owners” to the Financial Crime Enforcement Network (FinCEN) at the time a company is formed and in
The Committee favorably reported H.R. 2513, as amended, by a vote of 43-16.

- The Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2019 (H.R. 2162), introduced by Representative Joyce Beatty (D-OH), which would require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount Federal Housing Administration (FHA) single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program. The Committee favorably reported H.R. 2162, as amended, by a vote of 53-6.

- The Keeping Families Together Act of 2019 (H.R. 2763), introduced by Representative Sylvia Garcia (D-TX), which would prohibit the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from implementing a proposed rule that would require every member of a household in which any member of the household receives public housing, Section 8 project-based rental assistance or Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers to be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen. The Committee favorably reported H.R. 2763, as amended, by a vote of 32-26.

- The Ensuring Equal Access to Shelter Act of 2019 (H.R. 3018), introduced by Representative Jennifer Wexton (D-VA), which would prohibit the Secretary of HUD from implementing a proposed rule that would allow shelter providers to deny transgender and gender non-conforming people equal access to homeless shelters. The Committee favorably reported H.R. 3018, as amended, by a vote of 33-26.

- The FHA Loan Affordability Act of 2019 (H.R. 3141), introduced by Representative Dean Phillips (D-MN), which would repeal the requirement that FHA borrowers pay mortgage insurance premiums for the life of the loan and reinstate the FHA’s previous policy of requiring borrowers to pay premiums until the outstanding principal balance reaches 78 percent of the original home value. The Committee favorably reported H.R. 3141, as amended, by a vote of 34-25.

- The Homeownership for Dreamers Act (H.R. 3154), introduced by Representative Juan Vargas (D-CA), which would clarify that recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) cannot be deemed ineligible for mortgage loans backed by FHA, Fannie, Freddie, or the USDA solely on the basis of their status as DACA recipients. The Committee favorably reported H.R. 3154, as amended, by a vote of 33-25.

Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) stressed the need for a long-term reauthorization of the NFIP, noting that the program has been subject to short-term reauthorizations and lapses. She said the program is set to expire on September 30, 2019. She thanked the Ranking Member for working with her to reach a bipartisan agreement. She said the bill would reauthorize the NFIP for five years and would address unaffordable premium costs through a five-year demonstration program for means-tested assistance. She stated that the bill maintains premium caps and repeals surcharges which impose high fees. She noted that the bill
provides improvements to and additional funding for flood mapping. She stated that the bill also enhances mitigation programs. She explained that the bill allows NFIP to offer umbrella coverage for properties with multiple structures. She noted that the bill allows for people who go from NFIP policies to private coverage to be considered to have continuous coverage.

Ranking Member Patrick McHenry (R-NC) said the bill includes compromises from both parties. He contended that the bill makes rational reforms to the NFIP, and the bill will provide long-term certainty and modernize the NFIP. He said it will provide resources to communities, modernize mapping, provide more resources for mitigation, and increase risk sharing in order to protect taxpayers. He raised concerns that the Corporate Transparency Act lacks adequate privacy safeguards and that the information collected could be breached.

Senate Banking Committee Holds Hearing on Data Brokers and Financial Data Privacy

Key Point:
- The Committee continued its examination of data collection and privacy in the growing digital economy.

On June 11, the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee held a hearing entitled “Data Brokers and the Impact on Financial Data Privacy, Credit, Insurance, Employment and Housing.” Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) noted that an increasingly digital economy means more personal information is available online than ever before. He expressed his concern over a 2013 Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report that found that billions of data elements are being collected, sold and used by both federal and private agencies without the knowledge of most consumers. Crapo also cited a 2013 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on information resellers (including data brokers) that found a need for the consumer privacy framework to reflect changes in technology and the marketplace. He emphasized the need for laws that give consumers more control over their data and how it is used. He referenced the witness Pam Dixon’s book on predictive consumer scoring which noted that no protections exist for consumers’ predictive scores that mirror rules that apply to credit scores under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). Crapo told the Committee that the FCRA’s goal of protecting citizens’ private data must be adapted to fit the new need for online privacy and security in a digital economy.

Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) provided an abbreviated list of the largest data broker companies, naming Acxiom, CoreLogic, Spokeo, ZoomInfo, and Oracle, but noted that 4,000 companies collect and sell private information and none of them agreed to speak in front of the Committee. Brown explained that a witness at the last privacy hearing testified that the daily activities of most Americans are now tracked and permanently recorded by automated systems at Google or Facebook, but Brown added that that data is not useful unless attached to other consumer behavior pattern data. He emphasized that large data broker companies are buying personal information and selling it to Silicon Valley for opaque and potentially nefarious reasons. He encouraged the Committee to act now before the unregulated data economy spins out of control.
FIMSAC Approves Recommendations on Pennying in the Bond Markets, FINRA New Issue Reference Database

**Key Point:**
- The Advisory Committee approved a recommendation on pennying in the corporate and municipal bond securities markets, as well as a draft comment letter on the FINRA new issue reference database.

On June 11, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) convened a telephonic meeting of the Fixed Income Market Structure Advisory Committee (FIMSAC or the Advisory Committee). The Advisory Committee approved two items: (1) Draft Recommendation on Pennying in the Corporate Bond and Municipal Securities Markets; and (2) Draft Comment Letter on FINRA New Issue Reference Database Proposal.

Technology and Electronic Trading Subcommittee Chairman Richard McVey (MarketAxess) said the Advisory Committee had a productive discussion on pennying at the April 15 meeting. He said the Subcommittee made changes to clarify the definition of practice of pennying, stating that pennying has negative implications for long-term competition and pricing for retail alternative trading systems (ATSs). He stated that they clarified that last look is a valid practice. He said the revised recommendation provides clarification on the difference between pennying and last look.

McVey said the draft letter is in response to other comment letters on the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) proposal. He noted that the Advisory Committee previously unanimously recommended that FINRA establish a new issue reference database. He said the Subcommittee validated the fields recommended by FINRA and was recommending additional fields. He stated that the letter clarifies the inclusive process that led to the FIMSAC recommendation. He said the letter clarifies that reference data is absolutely necessary, including for corporate bonds. He suggested that there are significant issues with the current system for new issue data dissemination. He said the letter makes clear that the recommendation was not meant to displace reference data providers, and that almost all reference data providers supported the recommendation. He stated that the letter reaffirms that FINRA is the right provider to host this service, pointing to their existing role with the Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine (TRACE). He stated that it is critical for competition to exist in the reference data market.

**Upcoming Hearings and Meetings**

**June 18**

_Terrorism Risk Insurance Program:_ The Senate Banking Committee will hold a hearing on reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program. The witnesses at the hearing will be Tariq Nageer, Terrorism Placement Advisory and Leader, Property Practice, Marsh; Howard Kunreuther, Co-Director, Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center; and Baird Webel, Specialist in Financial Economics, Congressional Research Service.
**Nominations Vote:** The Senate Banking Committee will hold an executive session to vote on the nominations of Thomas Peter Feddo to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security; Ian Paul Steff to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service; The Honorable Michelle Bowman to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Paul Shmotolokha to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; and Allison Herren Lee to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Federal Advisory Committee on Insurance:** The Treasury Department's Federal Insurance Office (FIO) will hold a meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee on Insurance (FACI).

**June 19**

**Tax and Trade Policy:** The House Financial Services Committee’s National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy will hold a hearing entitled “Slowing Economic Growth: The Impact of Recent Trade and Tax Policies on the U.S. Economy.”

**Securities Enforcement:** The House Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets will hold a hearing entitled “Putting Investors First: Examining Proposals to Strengthen Enforcement Against Securities Law Violators.”

**Beneficial Ownership:** The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing entitled “Combating Kleptocracy: Beneficial Ownership, Money Laundering, and Other Reforms.”

**Bankruptcy Law:** The House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law will hold a hearing entitled “Oversight of Bankruptcy Law and Legislative Proposals.”

**June 20**

**Diversity:** The House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing entitled “Diversity in the Boardroom: Examining Proposals to Increase the Diversity of America’s Boards.”

**Appraisals:** The House Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance will hold a hearing entitled “What’s Your Home Worth? A Review of the Appraisal Industry.”

**Beneficial Ownership:** The Senate Banking Committee will hold a hearing entitled “Outside Perspectives on the Collection of Beneficial Ownership Information.” The witnesses at the hearing will be Greg Baer, CEO, Bank Policy Institute (BPI); Karen Harned, Executive Director, Small Business Legal Center, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); and Gary Kalman, Executive Director, Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency Coalition (FACT).

**June 25**

**Debt Collection:** The House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing entitled “Examining Legislation to Protect Consumers and Small Business Owners from Abusive Debt Collection Practices.”
**FinTech:** The House Financial Services Committee’s Task Force on Financial Technology will hold a hearing entitled “Overseeing the Fintech Revolution: Domestic and International Perspectives on Fintech Regulation.”

**Abusive Acts or Practices:** The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) will hold a symposium on the topic of the abusiveness standard in consumer financial products and services. The event will feature remarks from CFPB Director Kathleen Kraninger and Deputy Director Brian Johnson.

**June 26**

**Diversity:** The House Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion will hold a hearing entitled “Diverse Asset Managers: Challenges, Solutions and Opportunities for Inclusion.”

**Artificial Intelligence:** The House Financial Services Committee’s Task Force on Artificial Intelligence will hold a hearing entitled “Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence: Where We Are and the Next Frontier in Financial Services.”

For more information about financial services issues you may email Joel Oswald or Alex Barcham.

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**HEALTH**

**Administration Releases Policy Permitting HRAs**

**Key Points:**
- The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury issued a new policy to expand the use of health reimbursement arrangements.

On June 13, the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury announced a new rule entitled “Health Reimbursement Arrangements and Other Account-Based Group Health Plans” which will permit the expansion of health reimbursement arrangements. The changes will be effective January 2020.

HHS Secretary Alex Azar said “too many Americans today have little say in how their healthcare is financed.” He asserted the expansion of HRAs will “provid[e] Americans with more options that better meet their needs.”

Under the rule, employers will be permitted to use individual coverage HRAs to provide workers with tax-preferred funds to pay for health insurance purchased on the individual market. The rule also includes safeguards to ensure employers have flexibility and protect the individual market from adverse selection.

The expansion is expected to benefit 800,000 employers and more than 11 million employees. It is intended to help small businesses compete with larger employers by providing a new way to finance worker health insurance. It will also improve workers’ choice...
of coverage, portability of coverage, and economic well-being.

Read the final rule here and FAQs here.

Energy and Commerce Examines Surprise Medical Billing

Key Points:
- The House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Health Subcommittee held a hearing titled “No More Surprises: Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills.”
- Questions focused on the causes of surprise bills, development of provider networks, and negotiations between insurers and providers.

On June 12, the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Health Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “No More Surprises: Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills.” Topics discussed in the hearing included: (1) Responsibility; (2) Provider Payments; (3) Hospital Charges; (4) Provider Networks; (5) Rural Providers; (6) Air Ambulance; (7) Emergency Centers; (8) Balance Billing; and (9) Arbitration.

There was bipartisan consensus about the need to address surprise medical billing. Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) contended the private sector is unlikely to fix the issue and stressed now is the time for federal legislation. He particularly advocated for a discussion draft titled the “No Surprises Act,” which would: (1) hold patients harmless in surprise billing situations by their limiting cost-sharing for out-of-network (OON) charges to an in-network rate; and (2) require insurers to reimburse providers at the median in-network rate for OON care. Chairman Pallone expressed openness to other proposals but cautioned against any approach that would increase consumer premiums.

Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR) also expressed support for the discussion draft, highlighting the use of benchmark rate reimbursements in states like California and Oregon while clarifying these states would not be preempted by a new federal law. He pushed back against criticism of the benchmark rate as a disincentive for provider networks, claiming there is no evidence that states using these payment rates have observed this impact.

The other solution offered was a “baseball style” arbitration model in which insurers and providers resolve payments disputes without involving patients. This solution was favored by a number of witnesses who expressed concern with the impact of rate setting on provider networks. Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Michael Burgess (R-TX) also expressed interest in this solution, suggesting the process often leads to settlements between insurers and providers before the formal arbitration.

House Continues Hearings on Universal Health Care

Key Points:
- The House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on “Pathways to Universal Health Care.”
- Questions focused on the impact of the proposals on various groups including patients, rural communities, private insurers, and Medicare.

On June 12, the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing entitled “Pathways to Universal Health Coverage.” Topics
discussed in the hearing included: (1) Patient Impacts; (2) Approaches to Universal Coverage; (3) Paying for Universal Health Care; (4) Drug Pricing; (5) Affordable Care Act/Medicaid Expansion; (6) Impacts on Rural and Minority Communities; (7) Private Insurance Impacts; (8) Medicare Impacts; and (9) Administrative Costs.

Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) asserted there is still more work to be done following enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure all Americans have access to and can afford health care. He stressed this hearing was only the beginning of a process to find solutions improve access care. Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) expressed concern Medicare for All will gut quality health care and give Washington politicians unlimited control of health care which will bankrupt America. He predicted Americans will pay more, wait in longer lines, and receive lower quality health care.

Questions from Republicans focused on the cost of Medicare for All and other proposals and the negative impact they could have on the existing Medicare program. Other questions raised concerns about introducing government bureaucracy into the health care system arguing this will lead to worse decisions for patients and make the system less adaptable to individual community needs.

Democrats emphasized the importance of strengthening the current ACA-based system even while Congress discusses further reforms. Several suggested a Medicare for All system would be better able to promote quality health care. Some noted a universal system would be better able to control administrative costs.

Upcoming Hearings and Meetings

**June 18**

**Costs:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on “Lower Health Care Costs Act.”

**June 19**

**Biosimilars:** Politico will hold a discussion on “America’s Sky-High Drug Prices & the Role of Biosimilars.”

**Drug Pricing:** The Senate Aging Committee will hold a hearing on “The Complex Web of Prescription Drug Prices, Part III: Examining Agency Efforts to Further Competition and Increase Affordability.”

**Opioid Treatment:** The House Oversight and Reform Committee will hold a hearing on “Medical Experts: Inadequate Federal Approach to Opioid Treatment and the Need to Expand Care.”

**Women’s Health:** The House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on “Protecting Title X and Safeguarding Quality Family Planning Care.”

**June 20**

**Territories:** The House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on “Strengthening Health Care in the U.S. Territories for Today and Into the Future.”

For more information about healthcare issues you may email or call Nicole Ruzinski Bertsch or George Olsen at 202-659-8201. Thomas McGrath contributed to this section.
TRADE

China Tariff Developments

Key Points:
- President Trump tweeted that he wants to make a deal with China’s President Xi, and refuses to give a deadline on when additional tariffs will be imposed.
- Monday June 17 is the deadline for Section 301 List 4 comments (the proposed tariffs on the remaining $300B+ in Chinese goods).

President Trump said again on Wednesday that he will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 leaders summit later this month. However, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross clarified what the meeting is likely to cover, and suggested the two leaders would at most agree to restart trade talks at that meeting. President Trump also said Wednesday he had no deadline for a decision on whether to impose tariffs on another $300 billion in Chinese goods. Neither the U.S. nor China have confirmed that a meeting between Presidents Trump and Xi will take place at the G20 June 28-29 leaders summit, though President Trump has repeatedly said they will sit down.

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) set the deadline for the upcoming List 4 comments as Monday June 17, and hearings will begin the same day. The USTR hearings on so-called “List 4” to impose a 25 percent tariff on the remaining $300 billion worth of Chinese goods, could take up to two weeks, and it is possible that as many as 500 to 600 witnesses could be asked to testify at the hearings.

USMCA and Mexican Tariff Developments

Key Points:
- President Trump agreed not to impose tariffs on Mexico, but left room to change his mind.
- Lawmakers want proof of agriculture produce purchase claims made by President Trump.

Tariffs

President Trump had threatened to impose tariffs beginning at five percent on approximately $350 billion worth of Mexican goods unless the country significantly increased its efforts to stem the flow of Central Americans migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. Last Friday, President Trump dropped the threat after the two countries announced a deal, but he has since suggested that tariffs could be applied if the White House is unhappy with Mexico’s progress implementing the agreement. White House trade adviser Peter Navarro appeared to back up that possibility on Thursday, noting that “our metric here is what actually happens at the border.” Asked whether that meant the tariff threat could return, Navarro responded: “[w]hat it means is this president has border security as one of his top priorities. We will do what’s necessary to ensure secure borders.”

The issue certainly could resurface in the coming months given what many experts say is the difficulty of the task of stemming the flow of migrants. Mexico will be facing a difficult task, and if it is not successful, then the Trump Administration could revert back to the tariff threat or another action – as the President suggested this week.
**Agriculture Purchases**

Some Democratic lawmakers are calling on the Trump administration to explain the President’s recent claims that a new immigration deal with Mexico to avert five percent tariffs included additional agriculture purchases. During a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on Thursday, Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) pressed top Administration agriculture trade officials Gregg Doud and Ted McKinney about the details behind President Trump’s tweet last week claiming that Mexico, as a part of any deal, would be “purchasing Farm & Agricultural products at very high levels.” Mexican officials have publicly said the country has not agreed to do so. In a Thursday letter, Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) also called on the White House to “release the details” of the announcement. Baldwin said the president should either “immediately” release the terms of the ag deal or admit that such an agreement “was never in fact reached.”

For more information about trade issues you may email or call Christopher Hatcher at 202-659-8201. Cullen Neely contributed to this section.

*This Week in Congress was written by Alex Barcham.*