

Inter-Office Memo

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TO: International Executive Board
FROM: Legislative Department
SUBJECT: Legislative Update on the Trump Administration

1) TRADE & MANUFACTURING

Last week, half a dozen [auto industry groups](#) called on President Trump to deny Chinese automakers access to the U.S. market. Chinese President Xi Jinping met with President Trump in Washington, with the [major news](#) being an agreement to extend the trade truce with China until January 10th. USTR Greer [said](#) he will release more details on the proposed Board of Trade with China, which is expected to pursue tariff reductions on non-strategic goods, on Monday. [Reporting](#) also indicates that USTR will announce the results of its investigation into global excess capacity in manufacturing sectors sometime following the Trump-Xi summit.

The Senate sought to fast-track passage of the UAW-supported Connected Vehicle Security Act, which would limit Chinese ownership of U.S. auto manufacturers. Only Rand Paul (R-KY) objected, giving a strong indication that the bill has support to pass. Pending negotiations with Paul, the bill sponsors may [seek](#) to pass the bill next week.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said he is growing [concerned](#) with Ford's over-reliance on "technologies of foreign reliance." Duffy called out Ford's relationship with CATL at its BlueOval Battery Park facility in Michigan, its joint venture with Geely in Spain, and dismissed an alleged framework for creating Chinese joint ventures in the US. Ford rejected Duffy's claims in the letter and [denied](#) offering such a framework.

The U.S. and Mexico have [postponed](#) their fourth round of USMCA negotiations until October. The parties are nearing agreement on an interim deal that would address long simmering trade issues, and could potentially involve changes to Section 232 tariffs, but would not tackle core aspects of the USMCA like rules of origin, labor rights, and more.

In a largely symbolic gesture, the European Union [invited](#) Canada to work towards becoming an "associate member," which does not currently exist in the EU. President Trump called the invite a potential hostile act and [threatened](#) to impose high tariffs on Europe.

2) EDUCATION

Reports emerged last weekend of an Oval Office meeting in which Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russell Vought urged Trump to [create](#) a commission to review the grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), sidestepping Congress' temporary block on the OMB's proposal to give political appointees control of the grant-making process. Trump reportedly [directed](#) Vought to draft an executive order to create such a board in the meeting. After facing [pushback](#) from Senators Susan Collins and Patty Murray, as well as Rep. Rosa DeLauro, the administration is seemingly [backing off](#) those plans for now.

A federal judge [blocked](#) the administration's effort to end the longstanding "duration of status" precedent, which enabled international students and scholars on F and J visas to remain in the U.S. for the duration of their academic program. It is unclear whether the Department of Homeland Security will appeal the ruling.

3) IMMIGRATION

The Trump administration [released](#) a new proposed rule which would require some worker visa holders who lose their job to immediately leave the United States, eliminating the current 60-day grace period.

4) AI

An Anthropic researcher's [resignation](#) over concerns about the company "gambling with our lives" went viral, setting off an intensified public and policy debate about the safety of frontier models, how to regulate the industry, and AI competition with China. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei [called](#) for a slowdown in AI development, with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Elon Musk, and other prominent industry figures supporting the idea as well. Anthropic also [released](#) a report that identified a wide range of foreign adversaries that had used AI to conduct cyber espionage and other cyberattacks. President Trump has consistently rejected the idea of regulating AI and begun describing safety fears as a "[hoax](#)," but the issue has convulsed his administration as well.

Major Congressional action on AI this year is unlikely, but Democrats are [considering](#) creating special congressional committees on the subject if they are able to retake the majority in either chamber, and offering a flurry of proposals and introducing new legislation – notably including a bill from Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Greg Casar to pause further AI development and [ban artificial superintelligence](#) that would be capable of doing significant harm to humanity.

5) VOTING RIGHTS

The Supreme Court [rejected](#) Trump's executive order (EO) regulating mail-in ballots ahead of the midterm elections. As some states had already begun to mail out ballots, election officials (including [Republicans](#)) called on the Supreme Court to strike down the administration's plans.

However, the Supreme Court is [allowing](#) the Trump administration to use a national voter roll database to screen voters. The system has a history of mistakes and states are not required to use it, but it may enable states to purge voter rolls ahead of the midterm elections.

6) CONGRESS

House Republican leadership cut their last week in DC short to avoid having to take a vote on Rep. Thomas Massie's impeachment resolution against Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. The House is scheduled to return after the midterm election on November 9. The Senate will likely be in session through October 2.

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