

Welles Orr Comments on 2020 Trade Priorities in Law360

"5 Pressing International Trade Questions for 2020"

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Welles Orr commented on the likelihood of the U.S. Senate voting to ratify the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in the new year. "I think Senate passage of the USMCA implementing bill is pretty much a slam dunk," Orr said. "However, I do expect Senator Toomey will offer a compelling case for why USMCA falls short of NAFTA and actually will end up diminishing the North American trade relationship." Orr also commented on a potential Senate bill that would seek to reform Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, curtailing the president's ability to unilaterally impose tariffs on national security grounds. "I take Chairman Grassley at his word that he does want to bring a bipartisan bill to the floor and he will do so next year," Orr said. "At this point, however, I can't imagine he'll be able to muster enough veto-proof support in an election year and actually move a bill on the floor. He'll be happy enough to move on a symbolic effort and perhaps hold just a committee hearing and markup."