**Peter Friedmann’s View from Washington, DC - December 2017**

Congress has just a handful of legislative days before the New Year, to complete a mountain of work. And it’s having a tough time concentrating on legislation while grappling with sexual misconduct (both alleged and admitted), hacking, Russian investigation, and more!

Some things can wait till next Session of Congress (which begins January 3, 2018); Others can’t wait; let’s take those first:

à   Fund the government past its current December 8 deadline to avert a government shutdown.

à   Pass a renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, which expires at the end of the year, and enact new Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) legislation.

* Fund supplemental disaster appropriations.
* Reauthorize key programs, such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and a vital soon-to-expire electronic surveillance provision in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).
* Figure out a path forward for a popular immigration program – the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program – which is scheduled for termination in March 2018.
* Tax Reform
* Take steps to stabilize health care insurance markets, possibly by restoring cost sharing payments to insurance companies.
* Consider (in the Senate only) pending judicial and Administrative branch nominations.