



What does the new US Congress mean for Latin America and energy?

December 11 * National Press Club * Washington, DC

Latin America has increasingly figured in the headlines with the commencement of the 116th US Congress in January on the horizon. Among these stories are key developments for the energy sector: the newly minted USMCA free trade agreement, new governments in Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia, continued debate over Venezuela, and the role of US energy exports to the region, particularly natural gas and LNG. Meanwhile, President Trump and his administration have ratcheted up the rhetoric with respect to the region in recent weeks, the Democrats have regained control in the House of Representatives, and new committee chairs will attempt to reshape the agenda in both chambers. With many questions on the table, Latin America's evolving role in US trade and foreign policy and the resulting shifts in hemispheric energy relations demand further analysis.

8:45 Coffee and Registration

9:00 Welcome Remarks

Lisa Viscidi, Director, Energy, Climate Change & Extractive Industries Program, Inter-American Dialogue

9:15 Keynote Address: US Congress and Latin America

Nelson W. Cunningham, President, McLarty Associates

9:45 Congress, USMCA and Energy

- *What will the new Congress seek to achieve in terms of relations with Latin America in broad terms and energy more specifically?*
 - *Will the USMCA come to a vote and if so when? And what will the USMCA debate signify for North America's energy outlook?*
 - *Will the USMCA be approved in the Mexican and Canadian congresses? What are the main concerns for their members?*
 - *Are there possible adjustments to the existing agreement that would affect the energy sector?*
 - *How will the US and Congress manage the nascent relationship with the new Lopez Obrador government in Mexico, an administration that has already jarred investors with the Mexico City airport decision and a slew of measures aimed at rewriting energy regulation and restructuring how the Mexican government manages the energy sector?*
 - *Is the cozy relationship and desire to deepen collaboration between the incoming Bolsonaro government in Brazil and the US for real and substantive and will it have any implications for bilateral energy collaboration?*
 - *Will there be any changes in the posture toward Venezuela? Are further sanctions and measures by the US Congress, particularly aimed at the nation's oil sector possible?*
- *Neil Brown, Director, KKR Global Institute*
 - *Daniel Kastholm, Managing Director, FitchRatings*
 - *Mark Nelson, Regional Vice President, Sempra Energy*
 - *Katherine Tai, Chief Trade Counsel (Democratic Staff), Committee on Ways and Means, US House of Representatives*
 - *Jeremy M. Martin, Vice President, Energy & Sustainability, Institute of the Americas (Moderator)*

11:00 Closing

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