U.S. - China Negotiations Still Challenged

After negotiations between the U.S. and China came to a stand still in May, leaders on both sides have felt increasing pressure from constituents to continue working toward an agreement that tempers the political and economic stresses felt in both countries due to the trade war. Discussions between the U.S. and China started this week with a phone call between U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are expected to speak with their Chinese counterparts again this week before President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping meet on Saturday on the sidelines of the G-20 gathering in Osaka, Japan. According to Reuters, Trump plans to impose tariffs on another \$325 billion of goods if the meeting with Xi produces no progress in resolving a host of U.S. complaints around the way China does business. Both sides have made it clear they are not willing to make concessions on certain issues, proving a challenging path to an agreement that meets the standards of both countries.