Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 1/10/2019 12:44:07 PM
To: Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Fiat Chrysler Anticipated to Pay $650 Million to Settle Diesel Emissions Lawsuits

ENERGY

By Jacqueline Toth

Read the latest editions of Morning Consult's Senator Approval Rankings and Governor Approval Rankings.

Top Stories

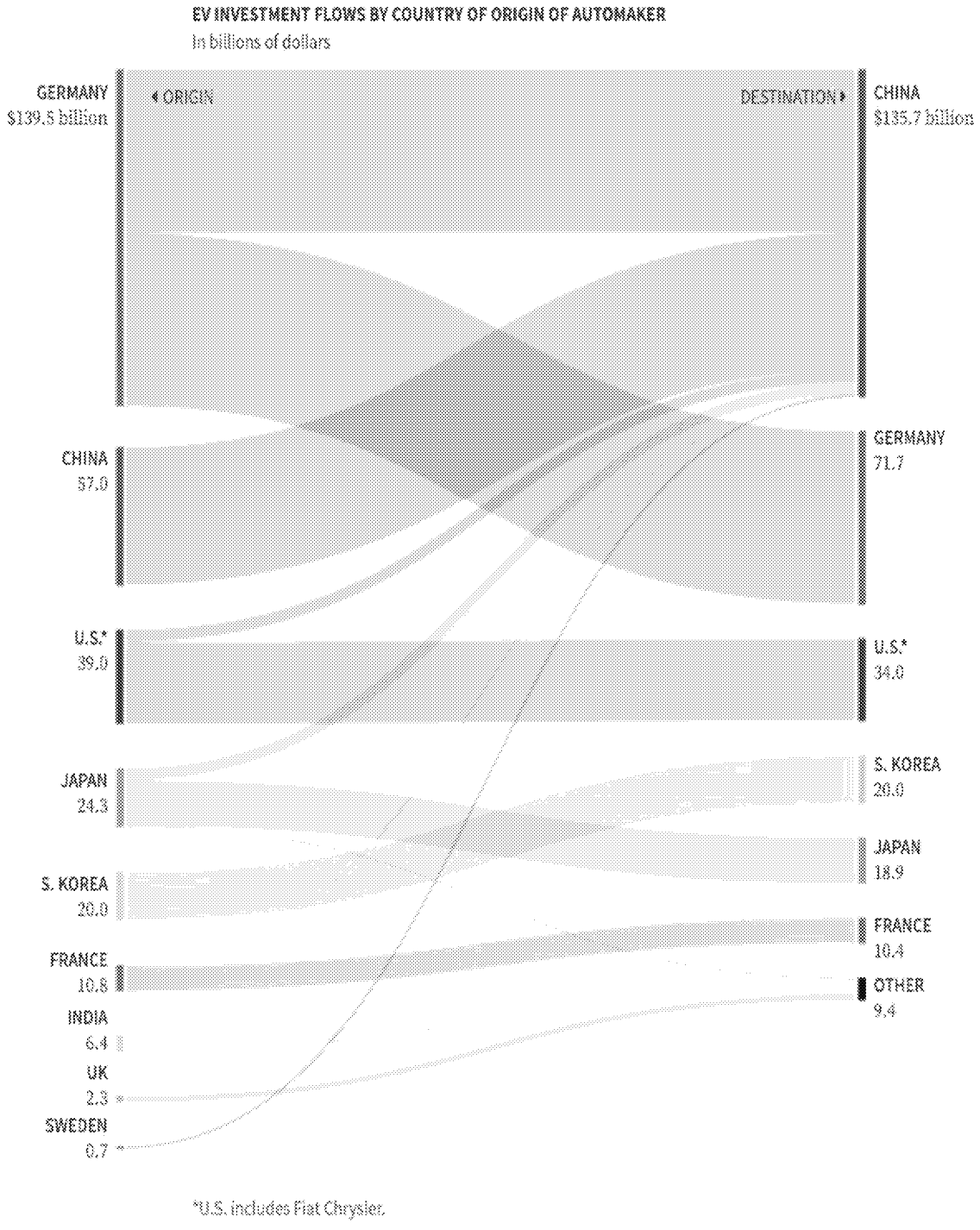
- Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV will pay almost $650 million under a settlement for lawsuits claiming Fiat Chrysler used illegal software that allowed cheating on diesel emission tests, according to two sources. The settlement, expected to be announced today, does not hold Fiat Chrysler guilty or include an Environmental Protection Agency finding of wrongdoing. (The New York Times)

- The Interior Department is closely examining Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt as potential candidates to head the agency, according to people familiar with the matter. Bishop said he did not know whether discussions were stepping up with the White House about the post. (Bloomberg)

- Documents show that the nonprofit organization Protecting America Now, formed in Delaware the day after former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's nomination to the agency, received $459,500 from donors - including $100,000 disclosed by Irving, Texas-based oil and gas company Pioneer Natural Resources Co. - to support Pruitt's confirmation. The nonprofit, run by a lone board member, lists its address as a UPS Store mailbox in Washington and received money from 16 other unidentified donors, according to a redacted donor list sent to the Internal Revenue Service. (Politico)

Chart Review

"Charged"
Reuters



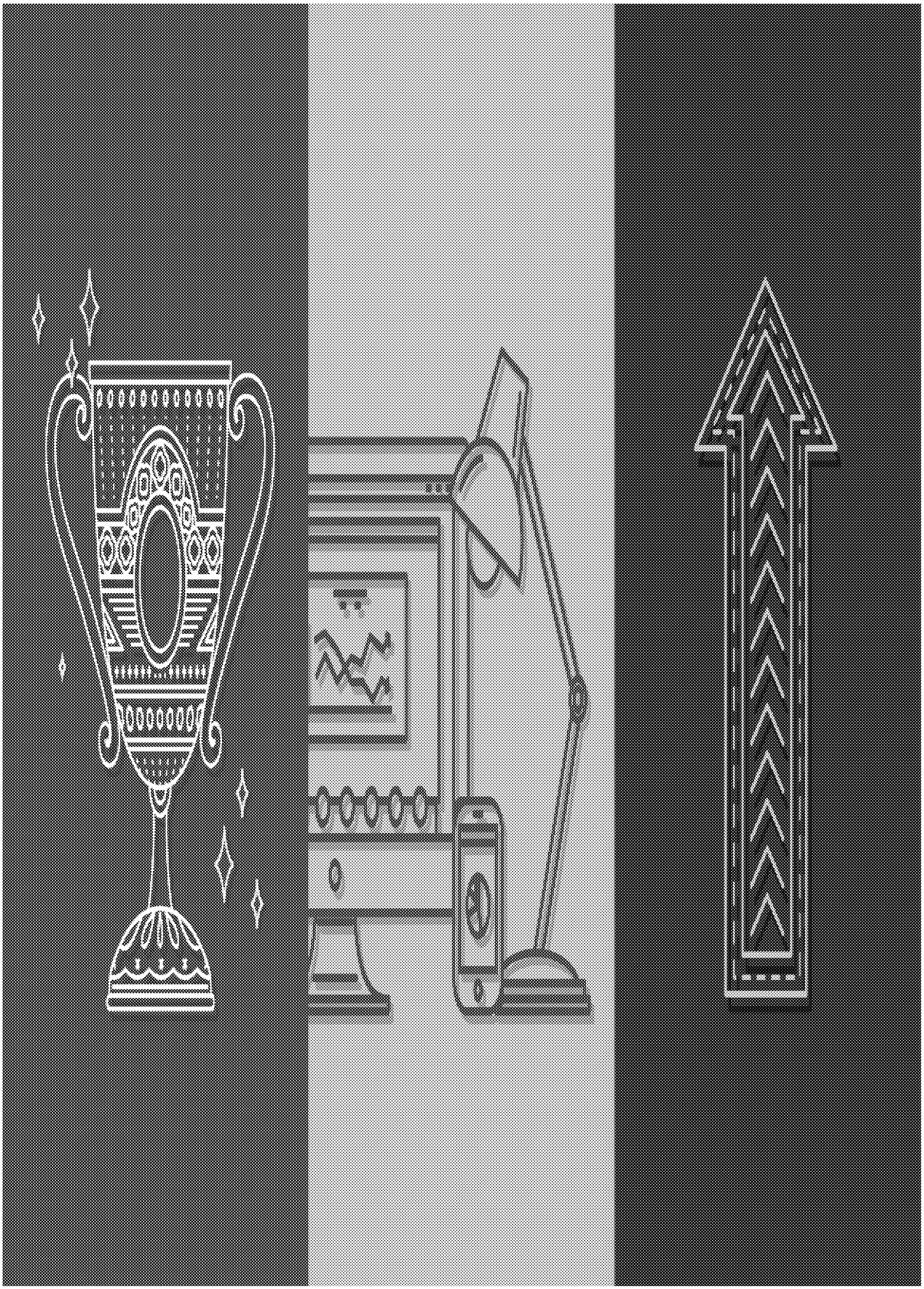
Events Calendar (All Times Local)

THURSDAY

S&P Global Platts 17th Annual Gas Storage Outlook Conference	7:15 a.m.
National Council for Science and the Environment Annual Conference	8 a.m.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission partially closed meeting on a license application for an ISF	1 p.m.

FRIDAY

S&P Global Platts 17th Annual Gas Storage Outlook Conference	8 a.m.
EPA Region 6 Administrator Anne Idsal to participate in Texas Public Policy Foundation forum	11 a.m.
Environmental and Energy Study Institute event on energy in the 21st century	3 p.m.



The Brands That Defined 2018

Which brands won 2018, who's on the rise, and key lessons for brands to take into the new year.

General

Trump says to halt aid to California wildfire victims, but law says he can't
Sharon Bernstein, Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump cannot withhold disaster relief once an emergency has been declared, federal statutes show, despite the Republican's tweet on Wednesday that he had ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to cease helping victims of last year's California wildfires.

Shutdown Means E.P.A. Pollution Inspectors Aren't on the Job
Coral Davenport, The New York Times

The two-week-old shutdown has halted one of the federal government's most important public health activities, the inspections of chemical factories, power plants, oil refineries, water treatment plants, and thousands of other industrial sites for pollution violations.

Federal shutdown has halted training, other wildfire prep - and it could get worse
Stuart Leavenworth, McClatchy DC

The U.S. Forest Service can't award contracts for needed equipment. In forests across the West, no federal employees are doing work to reduce dry "fuel" that feeds catastrophic blazes.

As damage grows, NPS muzzles its superintendents
Rob Hotakainen, E&E News

With trees razed and drivers making new roads on normally protected desert land, the damage at Joshua Tree National Park in California may be far worse than imagined, but Park Superintendent David Smith says he can't talk about it.

Steyer won't run for president in 2020
Christopher Cadelago, Politico

Tom Steyer, the billionaire environmental activist, said Wednesday he will not run for president and instead pump more money into his effort to remove Donald Trump from the White House.

Oil drops 1 percent on U.S.-China trade talks, American supply surge
Noah Browning, Reuters

Oil prices fell more than 1 percent on Thursday due to the lack of any clear resolution to U.S.-China trade talks and official data that again indicated vast fuel stocks in the United States.

Oil and Natural Gas

U.S. oil export boom sparks a battle to build Texas ports
Collin Eaton, Reuters

Booming U.S. oil exports have set off a scramble to build Gulf Coast ports to handle more than 3 million barrels per day in new supplies expected over the next five years.

Oil drillers, nature lovers get access to public lands despite shutdown
Juliet Eilperin and Dino Grandoni, The Washington Post

Officials at the Interior Department have made a conscious effort to pursue two priorities President Trump has emphasized in his time in office - energy exploration and access to public lands - during the shutdown, according to a top department official who spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to talk frankly.

Top suspect in Vitol, Glencore Brazil bribery case arrested in U.S. - court
Brad Brooks, Reuters

A Brazilian man facing allegations of bribing officials at state-run oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA on behalf of Vitol Group, Glencore and other major oil trading firms has been arrested in the United States, authorities said Tuesday.

Arab Oil Producers' Lender Targets $1 Billion for Energy in 2019
Verity Ratcliffe and Mohammed Aly Sergie, Bloomberg

Arab Petroleum Investments Corp. plans to invest almost $1 billion in energy projects this year, boosting its assets even as oil prices falter.

Producers weigh DUC production at $50/b oil
Starr Spencer, Platts

The volume of drilled but unproduced wells continues to build across the US to record levels, but market sentiment is mixed on whether oil prices need to continue to recover from levels now around $50/b to entice new production.

TransCanada to change name to TC Energy
The Associated Press

If approved by shareholders and regulators, TransCanada becomes TC Energy in the second quarter. The stock ticker "TRP" will not change.

Utilities and Infrastructure

California's New Boss Hints at Plan as PG&E Crisis Deepens
Mark Chediak and Michael B. Marois, Bloomberg

As concerns about PG&E Corp.'s financial health spiral, California Governor Gavin Newsom signaled that he'll deal with the troubles plaguing the state's largest utility as one of his first tasks in office.

Maximum civil penalties FERC can impose see slight uptick on inflation
Jasmin Melvin, Platts

Penalties the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may assess to gas and power companies, as well as individuals, accused of violating statutes, rules and orders within its jurisdiction will increase slightly as part of the commission's annual adjustment for inflation of the maximum civil monetary penalties it can impose.

NV Energy sues state energy regulators over tax issue
Riley Snyder, The Nevada Independent

NV Energy has filed a lawsuit against the Public Utilities Commission, seeking a court order to overturn a regulatory decision related to the 2017

reduction in federal corporate taxes that could be worth tens of millions of dollars.

Renewables

Ford and Volkswagen to forge deeper alliance
Peter Campbell and Patrick McGee, Financial Times

Ford and Volkswagen are to forge closer ties that may later extend to collaborating on electric and self-driving technology, in a partnership to be announced next week, according to three people familiar with the matter.

California set a goal of 100% clean energy, and now other states may follow its lead
Sammy Roth, Los Angeles Times

It's been less than four months since California committed to getting all of its electricity from climate-friendly sources by 2045. But the idea is already catching on in other states.

Ofo shuts international division as staff 'prepare for bankruptcy'
Josh Spero, Financial Times

A person familiar with the company said that Beijing-headquartered Ofo's international arm, which managed the global subsidiaries, had closed this week but employees abroad still had their jobs. The division's closure was first reported by local Chinese media.

Coal

Judge Cites 'Serious' Accusations Against McKinsey in Reopening Bankruptcy Case
Mary Williams Walsh, The New York Times

A judge in Virginia reopened a more than two-year-old case on Wednesday to consider accusations that the powerful consultancy McKinsey & Company had defrauded his court while advising a bankrupt coal company.

Utilities Speed Up Closure of Coal-Fired Power Plants
Katherine Blunt, The Wall Street Journal

Just last summer, Northern Indiana Public Service Co. NI -0.08% planned to retire two of its five remaining coal-fired power plants by 2023. Now, it plans to do away with all of them over the next decade, and buy more solar and wind power instead.

Voters have moved away from Trump on coal
Grace Sparks, CNN

In a Pew Research survey from April 2018, two-thirds of Americans said they think developing alternative sources such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology should be the priority over only 22% who thought expanding exploration and production of oil, coal, and natural gas should be the priority.

Nuclear

Fossil generators ask Supreme Court to review state nuclear subsidies
Gavin Bade, Utility Dive

Independent power generators on Monday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review lower court decisions upholding nuclear power subsidies in New York and Illinois, arguing they violate the Federal Power Act.

Climate

Greens begin push for nationwide 100 percent renewable energy mandate
John Siciliano, Washington Examiner

Environmental groups are set to fan out on Capitol Hill on Thursday to lobby lawmakers to back a 100 percent renewable energy mandate for the nation as an essential part of the progressive "Green New Deal" agenda.

Sen. Marco Rubio warns Trump a border emergency could embolden a future Dem president on climate change
Berkeley Lovelace Jr., CNBC

The Florida Republican contended that Trump was elected on the promise of building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and the

president has to "keep that promise." But "we have to be careful about endorsing broad uses of executive power," he added.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

It's Time for a 'Green New Deal'
U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Politico

There is a groundswell of support in America to tackle the calamity of climate change. Addressing climate change is a national security issue, but renewable energy is also a jobs issue, a health issue and a pocketbook issue for each American family.

Major policy shift in 280 characters: Trump tweets 'no more' FEMA money for California
Michael D. Brown, The Hill

While I agree "brevity is the soul of wit," Twitter does not necessarily lend itself to Lord Polonius' point in Shakespeare's "Hamlet" that less is more. Twitter very often obfuscates wit and leaves us with more questions than answers.

Research Reports

Bottlenecks building as US wind demand peaks
Leila Garcia Da Fonseca, Wood Mackenzie

The U.S. wind market is known as a volatile, seasonal industry due to several factors intrinsic to the nature of the business. The combined impact of inclement weather conditions, wind speed restrictions during turbine erection, and the cyclical nature of Production Tax Credit (PTC) legislation have been the main factors driving fourth quarter construction and commissioning peaks.

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