June 22, 2020

TO: USTOA Members

FR: Terry Dale

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Below is our COVID-19 Update for June 22, 2020:

**Congress**

**Updates as of 7:00pm ET**

**Senate Activities**

* The first procedural vote on Sen. Tim Scott’s (R-SC) policing bill will occur on Wednesday morning. The Democrats have not announced whether or not they will support allowing the bill to be debated and the Republicans have not indicated if they will allow amendments.
* The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, will hold a hearing tomorrow entitled “Oversight of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.” The sole witness will be The Honorable Kimberly A. Reed, President and Chairman, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States.

**House Activities**

* As we reported, House Democrats released the full text of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. The Moving Forward Act is a broad package of bills focused on infrastructure beyond the traditional definition. It is important to note that this legislation is still largely expected to be a messaging bill rather than legislation that will be passed by both chambers of Congress. The legislation includes no provisions that would solve the large funding deficit in the Highway Trust Fund. Instead, the legislation would authorize a $145B transfer from the general fund, more than all the general fund transfers since 2008 combined. As a reminder, a press release on the bill can be found [here](https://transportation.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-democrats-release-text-of-hr-2-a-transformational-infrastructure-bill-to-create-jobs-and-rebuild-america%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), a section-by-section can be found [here](https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Section%20by%20Section%20HR%202%20The%20Moving%20Forward%20Act%20FINAL.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and full bill text can be found [here](https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/BILLS-116HR2-RCP116-54.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).
	+ The bill includes $500B to invest in transportation infrastructure through the INVEST in America Act.
		- As a reminder, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up the INVEST in America Act last week.
	+ H.R. 2 includes the Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act, which funds $130B in school infrastructure to help, among other things, high-poverty schools address structural changes and upgrade childcare facilities.
	+ The broader package also includes airport provisions, including an authorization of $4B annually for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) from fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2025 from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF). Additionally, the legislation authorizes $3B for fiscal year 2021, $3.25B for fiscal year 2022, $3.50B for fiscal year 2023, $3.75B fiscal year 2024, and $4.0B for fiscal year 2025 from the general fund.
		- The general fund grants would be distributed based on airport passenger enplanement levels, with 12% in total set-asides for cargo airports, general aviation, reliever, and nonprimary commercial service airports, and airport projects that increase climate resiliency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate airplane noise.
		- The supplemental general fund amounts for fiscal year 2021 are to be spent on AIP-eligible projects and uses related to the effects of COVID-19 on airport operations, and for fiscal years 2022 through 2025, on AIP-eligible projects, airport terminal projects, and other airport development projects.
	+ Other topline funding numbers are:
		- $100B for affordable housing infrastructure;
		- $25B for drinking water through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund;
		- $70B for clean energy;
		- $100B for high-speed broadband;
		- $30B for health care infrastructure; and
		- $25B for the United States Postal Service, including funding for additional processing equipment and a zero emissions Postal Service vehicle fleet.
	+ The bill also includes titles for renewable energy infrastructure and expansion of community investment through revitalizing the tax code.
* The House Armed Services Subcommittees on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Strategic Forces advanced their Subcommittee parts of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) today. Both portions received bipartisan support. Available language and additional information for other Subcommittees marking up their parts of the bill tomorrow are below:
	+ [Military Personnel Subcommittee](https://armedservices.house.gov/press-releases?ID=73AA9D80-CD8C-4AC3-9098-CBF91C95EEF7" \t "_blank)
		- The Subcommittee legislation authorizes a 12,000-person increase for the active-duty military, supporting the Department of Defense’s (DoD) request for the coming fiscal year for more than 1.3M active service members.
		- The legislation would also approve a 3% pay increase for service members.
	+ [Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee](https://armedservices.house.gov/press-releases?ID=3CC715E0-DDC6-41E9-9631-A491FB9A8F27" \t "_blank)
		- The Subcommittee legislation would continue oversight into the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program and initiate new reporting requirements from DoD on software testing methodologies.
	+ [Readiness Subcommittee](https://armedservices.house.gov/press-releases?ID=4690BB0D-EE6C-4FAD-B6C1-784DB0B3D5F8" \t "_blank)
		- The measure includes provisions associated with phasing out the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) chemicals in firefighting foam, including a mandate that DoD notify Congress when there has been an uncontrolled release of firefighting agents containing PFAS and would require the Pentagon to survey and report on non-firefighting agent technologies that will aid in phasing out PFAS, such as firefighting equipment and hangar flooring.
	+ [Seapower and Projection Subcommittee](https://armedservices.house.gov/press-releases?ID=4C55FEAF-2B4F-49FE-A90B-7323A9746E0F" \t "_blank)
		- The proposal would put a hold on 75% of the Operations and Maintenance budget until DoD delivers a 30-year shipbuilding budget to Congress. The legislation also would block the retirement of any Navy ship in fiscal year 2021 until the DoD submits the Navy's integrated force structure assessment to Congress. The legislation authorizes the purchase of eight battle force ships, including a Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine, two Virginia-class attack submarines, two Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, a new frigate and two towing and salvage ships.
* The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittees on Communications and Technology and Consumer Protection and Commerce will hold a hearing entitled “A Country in Crisis: How Disinformation Online is Dividing the Nation,” on Wednesday, June 24. A briefing memo can be found [here](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/6.24.2020%20CAT-CPC%20Joint%20Disinformation%20Hearing%20Briefing%20Memo%20FINAL.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and the hearing will feature testimony from:
	+ Brandi Collins-Dexter, Senior Campaign Director, Color of Change
	+ Hany Farid, Professor, University of California, Berkeley
	+ Spencer Overton, President, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Professor of Law, George Washington University
	+ Neil Fried, Former Chief Counsel for Communications and Technology, Energy and Commerce Committee, Principal, Digital Frontiers Advocacy
* The House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics will hold a hearing tomorrow entitled “R&D to Support Healthy Air Travel in the COVID-19 Era and Beyond.” The hearing will feature testimony from:
	+ Ms. Heather Krause, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office
	+ Dr. Byron Jones P.E., Professor, Alan Levin Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering; Director, National Gas Machinery Laboratory, Kansas State University
	+ Dr. Vicki Hertzberg, Professor and Director, Center for Data Science, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University

**Updates at 12:00pm ET**

**Senate Activities**

* The Senate will vote on whether to proceed to [S. 3985](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3985?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22tim+scott%22%5D%7D&s=5&r=2" \t "_blank), Sen. Tim Scott’s (R-SC) JUSTICE Act on police reform this week. Democrats and Republicans in both chambers are currently working to build bipartisan support for their respective proposals. In the Senate, Sen. Doug Jones (D-AL) signaled that he will agree to let the measure clear procedural hurdles in the Senate and begin debate. While Sen. Jones did state his inclination to vote to proceed with debate on the bill, he did not commit to voting for the bill on final passage.
* On Tuesday, 6/23, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee will hold a hearing on preparing for future pandemics. Witnesses will include:
	+ Dr. William Frist, Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader
	+ Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive and Chief Deputy Director for Health, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
	+ Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, Executive Vice President and Chief Patient Officer, Merck & Co., Inc.
	+ Governor Michael O. Leavitt, Former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services
* On Tuesday, 6/23, the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on oversight of the Export Import Bank of the United States (EXIM). EXIM Chairwoman Kimberly Reed will testify.
* The Senate Budget Committee will conduct a hearing this week on the nomination of Derek Kan to become Deputy Director for the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As a reminder, Kan previously served as Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy until last summer, when he left the Department of Transportation (DOT). He has served as Executive Associate Director at OMB since.
* On Thursday, 6/25, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on oversight of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
	+ The sole witness will be Mark Morgan, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner.
* The Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act expired on Saturday. Originally adopted in 2004, the law lengthened criminal antitrust penalties and offered companies incentives to report price-fixing.
	+ Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced a bill, S. 3377, to permanently extend the law, but Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) put a hold on the measure until the Justice Department answered questions about its now-closed antitrust probe into automakers that adopted California’s fuel standards.

**House Activities**

* The House is expected to vote on H.R.7120, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020, this week.
* House Democrats released [bill text](https://transportation.house.gov/download/bill-text-moving-forward-act%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), [a section by section summary](https://transportation.house.gov/download/sec-by-sec-moving-forward-act%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), and [a fact sheet](https://transportation.house.gov/download/fact-sheet-moving-forward-act%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) of the broader infrastructure legislation unveiled last week. The Moving Forward Act, built around the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s (T&I) INVEST in America Act, carries a topline cost of $1.5T and, in addition to the surface transportation reauthorization provisions, includes sections on aviation, broadband, water and energy infrastructure, housing and schools.
* The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) begins its subcommittee markups of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) this week with the following schedule. Additional information is provided, where available.
	+ Monday
		- Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. Bill text and additional information is [here](https://armedservices.house.gov/press-releases?ID=F4FD3F34-6B54-4FA8-9F62-78973A786C33" \t "_blank).
			* The legislation includes policy recommendations from the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, including strengthened oversight of risks to national security presented by quantum computing, requiring an assessment on public-private collaboration on digital security and evaluating non-traditional cyber support to the Department of Defense (DoD). The legislation does not establish a National Cyber Director.
			* The legislation also includes a requirement that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review the Pentagon's capabilities to respond to chemical and biological weapons, and brief lawmakers by January 15, 2021.
		- Subcommittee on Strategic Forces. Bill text and additional information is [here](https://armedservices.house.gov/press-releases?ID=AA38ADFA-3B69-484C-8693-B87A1AC5EDBA" \t "_blank).
			* At a high level, the legislation includes an unclassified independent assessment of foreign nations' nuclear weapons capabilities, support for the DoD’s request for missile defense cooperation with Israel, as well as a space sensor layer that can track ballistic and hypersonic missile threats, and funding for the Navy to begin efforts to integrate conventional prompt-strike weapons on surface ship platforms.
	+ Tuesday
		- Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces
		- Subcommittee on Military Personnel
		- Subcommittee on Readiness
		- Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection
* As we have reported, House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) announced that markups will begin the week of July 6 and will allow for both in-person and remote participation. The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup is set to take place on July 8 at 11am.
	+ Chairwoman Lowey said that the times of the markups might change if the Committee can secure a second hearing room. Additionally, all bill texts are expected to be released about 24 hours before the subcommittee markups.
	+ House Appropriators are expected to include more pandemic aid and police reform measures, two areas of contention for Senate appropriators, who are supposed to begin markups next week.
	+ The House is expected to vote on the appropriations measures during the last two weeks in July.
* T&I reported the INVEST in America Act (H.R. 2) out of Committee last week, which has now become a part of the broader, aforementioned infrastructure plan released by Democrats that is set for a floor vote on June 30.
	+ The Senate to date has only advanced its highway title, S 2302, out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.
	+ As we have reported, the Administration is also expected to release its own surface transportation proposal or priorities in the near term.
		- It is unclear at this time what form the negotiations will take. If the Administration pushes for an infrastructure component to be part of the next relief measure, it will change the dynamics of the debate, particularly for Senate Republicans.
* House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA) wants former U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman, who stepped down on Saturday amid a public standoff with Attorney General Bill Barr, to testify before the House Intelligence Committee.
	+ House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-NY) is opening an investigation into Berman’s resignation, but does not have plans to ask him to testify as of now.
	+ President Trump and Attorney General Barr indicated that they plan to nominate Jay Clayton, current Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, to replace Berman. However, Senate Judiciary Chairman Graham has indicated he will honor the “blue slip” system, which would allow either New York Senator to object to the nomination.
* The House Energy and Commerce Committee is holding a hearing on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 11am entitled, "Oversight of the Trump Administration's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic."
	+ The hearing, like many others on Capitol Hill in recent weeks, will allow for both in person and remote member attendance via video conferencing. Witnesses will include:
		- Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health
		- ADM Brett P. Giroir, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
		- Stephen M. Hahn, M.D., Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
		- Robert R. Redfield, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
* On Tuesday, 6/23, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a virtual Member Day hearing on Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations.

**Administration**

**Updates as of 7:00pm ET**

* President Donald Trump is expected to sign an Executive Order to extend foreign-worker restrictions through the end of the year. The initial order blocked permanent residency visas and prohibited visas for guest workers. This Executive Order extends previous restrictions implemented in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
	+ The new Executive Order extends the original ban through Dec. 30 and expands it by imposing restrictions on work visas.
	+ The Executive Order reportedly includes a freeze that will apply to H-1B visas designed for high-skilled workers, particularly in the tech industry, and H-2B visas used by seasonal workers, like those in the construction and hospitality industries.
		- Others that are impacted are H-4 visas given to spouses of H-1B visa holders, L-1 visas for executives who work for large corporations, and some J-1 visas for scholars and professors.
	+ In addition, the Administration has reportedly instructed staff to begin work on long-term reforms to the immigration system, including changes to the way H-1B visas are distributed.
		- Currently, H-1B visas are distributed by lottery and the new approach would allot the visas to applicants who earn the highest wages.
* The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued their monthly Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight newsletter. The full newsletter can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.transit.dot.gov%2fsites%2ffta.dot.gov%2ffiles%2f2020-06%2fTSO-Spotlight-June-2020.pdf&c=E,1,P7pavrT8SkJAYhsDI1lvxf0IP6prRaLgn0spF9Fro1dzaOCYeIiYo1CvgRujEVM5P807DB3tdUinaF7d1OmPNCcXiDsnCVo7ZTBfh6KbtvezR70j_8Qq61SHCs_L&typo=1" \t "_blank).
	+ The newsletter featured guidelines for reopening America and the recommended actions transit employees should take to reduce the risk of COVID-19.
	+ The newsletter also highlighted online safety trainings for transit employees.
	+ Additionally, the newsletter featured updates on the CARES Act grants and noted that FTA has awarded 70% of the CARES Act funds.
* The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule that limits the imports of products containing Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and certain “forever chemicals.” The rule will ban the use of long-chain PFAS chemicals that are used as coatings in items like carpeting, furniture and ski wax, unless the agency gives prior approval. The text of the rule can be found [here](https://ustoa.com/r/ustoa-filemanager/source/resources/epa-pfoa-chemical-rule.pdf).
	+ Nancy Beck, who is President Trump’s nominee for Chairwoman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, has come under fire for her suggestion that the EPA include a safe harbor provision in the rule allowing companies to avoid punishment for using these chemicals if they said they were unaware of the rule.
* President Trump [released](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-safeguarding-u-s-national-interests-arctic-antarctic-regions/?source=email" \t "_blank) his plan to assess the state of U.S. icebreaking capabilities and polar infrastructure. However, the plan is facing criticism, including from Sen. Angus King (I-ME) who argued the plan would force the United States to start over on icebreakers and undermine any progress that is underway. Additionally, Julie Gourley, a former State Department official who specialized in the Arctic, said that the plan is too expensive.
* Today, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Board of Directors authorized publication of a final rule that mitigates the deposit insurance assessment effects of participating in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) established by the Small Business Administration and the Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility (PPPLF) and Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility (MMLF) established by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. The final rule can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.fdic.gov%2fnews%2ffinancial-institution-letters%2f2020%2ffil20063.html%3fsource%3dgovdelivery%26utm_medium%3demail%26utm_source%3dgovdelivery&c=E,1,rOoe4zXi1X8MUPyaV59NJDZB70nfKLqlFkcTHn6hu5ZvrK2LtFqrZRCIa2-Vlin5CDoXg84Zd7SF0u2yuAroK12bDNUH7h3c8_Wzc7AD8w,,&typo=1" \t "_blank).

**Updates as of 12:00pm ET**

* After a bipartisan request from Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD), the Department of the Treasury and the Small Business Administration (SBA) have [committed](https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1041%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) to releasing loan totals aggregated by zip code, by industry, by business type, and by various demographic categories for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans under $150,000. For loans above $150,000 the agencies will release business names, address, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, zip codes, business type, demographic data, non-profit information, and jobs supported. Loans above $150,000 will be reported in the following ranges:
	+ $150,000-350,000
	+ $350,000-1M
	+ $1-2M
	+ $2-5M
	+ $5-10M
* On Friday, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved the start of the engineering phase for the $1.87B Portal North in New Jersey, a replacement span for the two-track, swing-style Portal Bridge that has become a major bottleneck on Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor. The Portal North is part of the Gateway Project, which has been a politically charged project in recent years. According to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, the engineering phase will include eligibility for a $766.6M Federal grant and is a major milestone for the projects in the FTA Capital Investment Grant program.
* President Trump is expected to sign an Executive Order (EO) as early as today that would extend limits placed on foreign workers back in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The original EO expires today.
	+ It is expected that the President will expand the EO that blocked most people from receiving a permanent residency visa, or green card, by including most guest workers who come to the United States for temporary and seasonal work.
	+ The expansion of the EO is expected to encompass skilled workers in specialty occupations, executives, and seasonal workers who work in industries including landscaping, housekeeping, and construction. Agricultural workers and students will not be included.
	+ The order is expected to have broad exemptions, including those for healthcare professionals and those entering the country for law enforcement or national security reasons.
* The Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued their final rule on transporting bulk liquefied natural gas by rail. The [rule](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.phmsa.dot.gov%2fsites%2fphmsa.dot.gov%2ffiles%2f2020-06%2f2137-AF40%2520Final%2520Rule%2520%25206.19.20%2520web%2520final.pdf&c=E,1,vzNPSlJYr1hxAUDmW0GUXZxJjhvRQF7AyXny-O6wssO1LFVkV8FsY9FbFluu5zNCh7QPgRongCTucBQJ0N0b8A81HEia60tHOGKiFUNQug,,&typo=1" \t "_blank) is set to take effect 30 days after it publishes in the Federal Register.
* Attorney General Barr said Sunday that antitrust lawsuits can help rein in major U.S. tech companies that conservatives argue censor and suppress their political viewpoints. He said that one way the issue can be addressed is through antitrust laws and challenging companies that “engage in monopolistic practices.”
	+ Attorney General Barr did not mention any companies specifically by name.
	+ Attorney General Barr also reiterated his support over the weekend for the U.S. government to take a stake or publicly back European Companies Nokia and Ericsson. Attorney General Barr shared his belief that these two companies are the strongest western competitors to Huawei and that the “West has to rally around these companies.”
* On Sunday, Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), defended the work of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) amid the COVID-19 pandemic. His remarks come following a [Washington Post report](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/investigation-ordered-into-tsa-response-to-coronavirus-after-whistleblower-complaint/2020/06/18/122aa166-ad8b-11ea-94d2-d7bc43b26bf9_story.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), which found that DHS had been told by an independent federal watchdog to investigate whistleblower allegations that TSA is not doing enough to protect both travelers and employees.
* Federal Register Notices:
	+ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule on Implementing Statutory Additions of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f06%2f22%2f2020-10990%2fimplementing-statutory-addition-of-certain-per--and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-toxic-chemical&c=E,1,Qcqsc26T6xGKEybFqW_4Al89nItktIWC6hxzNZlh_dlSNh0TB5VlPxufsyPwr8nwTXB4DaMheyPueSNVqB0u1u9ArB2KDlNa8QGElHQkhw,,&typo=1" \t "_blank).
	+ The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a notice and request for comments on Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f06%2f22%2f2020-13333%2fagency-information-collection-activities-requests-for-comments-clearance-of-a-new-approval-of&c=E,1,BV67UWJzx23o08-puyr_te4fDDUPH6wuxhaZW-A05x6hNshZcCuLAaBoEdfuOozQdHezd4aAwYumT7tuMo2QTVnWFgWSh1rfkdmEADz9JFo9afPUr2Y,&typo=1" \t "_blank).
	+ PHMSA issued a notice of advisory committee meetings for the Gas and Liquid Pipeline Safety Advisory Committees. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f06%2f22%2f2020-13357%2fpipeline-safety-meeting-of-the-gas-and-liquid-pipeline-safety-advisory-committees&c=E,1,yXgdFkDQldK9ZUxZ-zCCdbhFfCi9R8K_LdZEBQjjhlWPRf76zYEDwzxLO96xUbaeuBaq9NbJmpW9EExwM5Jh7w2Q4EVX-GmBCYzrJoCnpOgFDrDbKmmg3yOobw,,&typo=1" \t "_blank).
	+ CBP issued a notice of an advisory committee meeting for the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f06%2f22%2f2020-13368%2fcommercial-customs-operations-advisory-committee-coac&c=E,1,EhyTJDQFRjOTehjbHRKWtB6UmQ3AmzbezbnzzzsxG-464ZQC-aSwxBBhp558UnuytSO1QPiRw4zgC49urZVp4in0e82nCRtFJhKWqGHlRdefPvM7ishZMoFkNQ,,&typo=1" \t "_blank).

**Other News**

**Updates as of 7:00pm ET**

* Auto manufacturers in Detroit, including Ford, Fiat-Chrysler and General Motors have said they expect to return to pre-COVID output and production levels by the end of the month.
	+ This return is earlier than expected, which is seen a sign that the supply base and workforce return has gone smoother than anticipated.
	+ Toyota has said their factories in Japan have returned to 90% of normal output.
* Gilead will begin testing an inhaled version of its COVID-19 drug Remdesivir in August, which could make the drug easier to administer to a wider array of patients. Remdesivir, now given as an infusion, has been shown to shorten recovery times for people hospitalized with COVID-19.
* Representatives of three Canadian airlines, Air Canada, Air Transat and WestJet, urged Canadian Members of Parliament to work toward restarting air travel by taking a unified approach to national quarantine requirements and developing safe travel corridors with other nations that have flattened their COVID-19 curves.
* French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire and German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said that they were committed to reaching a deal on taxation of large tech firms, even after the United States pulled out of the negotiations.
* The United States Chamber of Commerce released its [annual scorecard](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.uschamber.com%2fhow-they-voted%2f2019%23%2f&c=E,1,IaeYUg22ua_yy6s80es-c1-7a7bBUQRIB9YnrVbyPrYVX7vw4I7KoTVujDhWqi1KLLVVNZlq-ufnyJgjgda1cyf3pwEtGpGrA0z0-DtaWFDFmiFPPvR52qlqRw,,&typo=1" \t "_blank) of lawmakers. Only 34 House Democrats and four Democratic Senators voted with the Chamber 70% of the time, which is the cutoff for endorsements.
* The United States accounted for 20% of the newly reported COVID-19 cases on Sunday. Cases have continued to surge, and increased over the weekend in 22 states, mainly in western and southern states.
* The Metropolitan Transit Agency (MTA), New York City’s transit agency, said it expects to deplete Federal pandemic aid next month. MTA received nearly $4B through the CARES Act and, according to internal estimates, projects to lose $8.5B in revenue.

**Updates as of 12:00pm ET**

* The world saw the largest daily increase in COVID-19 cases yet on Sunday. According to the World Health Organization, 183,000 new cases were reported on Sunday with the U.S., Brazil, and India reporting the most new infections.
* The Supreme Court has decided not to hear [a case brought by the American Institute for International Steel](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.scotusblog.com%2fcase-files%2fcases%2famerican-institute-for-international-steel-inc-v-united-states%2f&c=E,1,F0ytj5jQU3-9izMU4D5PQAxc3k2Q57l4_-avN89KxlxW7BQtXsZe9Xg-0aQsZlC7wDxXCSxTbB1Qn8LcXINU3o7fy8LWQBvxG0KyGwpx8vdTKHIV4u5HGPdsylHm&typo=1" \t "_blank) challenging the Section 232 tariffs imposed by President Trump in 2018. This decision effectively ends the legal challenge to these tariffs.
* A coalition of ridesharing companies, including Uber and Lyft, in addition to several scooter companies and other micro mobility advocacy groups, wrote to Congressional leadership asking them to increase bike and scooter sharing, as well as other active transportation options, in the next surface transportation reauthorization bill. The letter is [here](https://ustoa.com/r/ustoa-filemanager/source/resources/6-22-20-mobility-companies-letter-to-congress.pdf).
* The American Bus Association (ABA) issued a report finding that the U.S. motorcoach industry will see an economic loss of nearly $11B due to the pandemic, a 71% decline in annual business. ABA also expected 62,800 jobs to be removed from the industry before the end of the pandemic. More information on the report can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.buses.org%2fnews%2farticle%2fnew-aba-foundation-report-estimates-industry-losing-11-billion-despite-easi&c=E,1,zEAIQLKScIzplwqGMqwckC3AOU6ySd2mo__8FNK6qSEsyYTiDPtK7IIcMvpt8A0EerDnWUeLL5NHZI-ygX_fTQH1FcMKhFZ_nj8jAUfXEQvAU-2i1Q,,&typo=1" \t "_blank).
* Cruise lines voluntarily suspended their U.S. operations for another three months. The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) announced that its members, which include all major companies operating out of U.S. ports, will continue the existing pause through at least September 15. As a reminder, the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) no-sail order, lasts through July 24.
* Retail businesses across the country, including large companies like Best Buy and Macy’s, have set plans to reopen hundreds of stores by the end of June. Apple, however, who began opening stores in May, has decided to re-close stores in four states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Arizona) that have seen a recent rise in COVID-19 cases. The move shows a conservative outlook on reopening for Apple as it evaluates local COVID-19 data.
* U.S. Chamber of Commerce Chief Policy Office Neil Bradley confirmed that the Chamber is advocating for additional relief for state and local governments in conversations with Congressional Republicans. Bradley argued that additional relief could prevent states from implementing more permanent tax increases to replace revenue lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
* A Federal judge in San Francisco on Friday denied a request from Democratic state Attorneys General to block implementation of the Administration’s new Waters of the U.S. rule. The new rule is set to go into effect today.
* AT&T plans to lobby Congress to revamp U.S. broadband policies, including for funding for programs that ensure Americans can access the internet regardless of their location or income. According to a statement citing that at least 18M people lack access to broadband internet service, and 15% of U.S. households with school-age children do not have high-speed internet at home, AT&T stated that “it is time for Congress to modernize and reform USF (Universal Service Fund) programs and establish a secure funding source for broadband connectivity for all Americans.”
* European Union Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan is exploring the possibility of entering the race to become the next World Trade Organization Director-General. However, his entering the race is raising some concerns within the European Union about his ability to work through issues related to tariffs and digital services taxes with the United States.
* Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of the U.N.'s International Maritime Organization, warned that the safe operation of the world’s merchant fleet is at risk because of hundreds of thousands of seafarers who have been stuck on ships for months due to COVID-19. Lim commented that "this is now a real safety issue, endangering the safe operation of ships. We cannot expect seafarers to stay at sea forever."