July 6, 2020

TO: USTOA Members

FR: Terry Dale

Below is our COVID-19 Updates for July 6, 2020:

**Congress**

**Updates at 7:00pm ET**

**Senate**

* Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE) introduced S. 4162, the Airport Infrastructure Readiness (AIR) Act. The bill would provide aid to airports by changing funding formulas for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) by calculating funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and FY 2023 based on either 2018 or 2019 enplanement numbers, rather than 2020 and 2021 enplanement numbers which are expected to be significantly lower due to COVID-19. A press release on the bill can be found [here](https://www.fischer.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/news?ID=37376389-6C49-433E-BE81-30E588FB3939) and bill text can be found [here](https://www.fischer.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/84c0ebaf-1705-4246-ae33-2686a6bbcad7/airport-infrastructure-readiness-air-act.pdf).
* Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Mike Braun (R-IN), Michael Bennet (D-CO), and Doug Jones (D-AL) introduced S. 4201, the Rural Broadband Acceleration Act, which would speed up the allocation of the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). A press release on the bill can be found [here](https://www.portman.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/portman-brown-braun-bennet-jones-upton-clyburn-introduce-bipartisan).

**House**

* Rep. Kendra Horn (D-OK) introduced H.R. 7484, the Preventing China From Exploiting COVID-19 Act. The bill would require the United States government to analyze and combat efforts by the Chinese government to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill is supported by multiple members of the Blue Dog Coalition, including Reps. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Max Rose (D-NY), Tom O’Halleran (D-AZ), Ed Case (D-HI), Ben McAdams (D-UT), Luis Correa (D-CA), Jared Golden (D-ME), Anthony Brindisi (D-NY), Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Joe Cunningham (D-SC). A press release on the bill can be found [here](https://horn.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=306) and bill text can be found [here](https://horn.house.gov/uploadedfiles/preventing_china_from_exploiting_covid-19_act.pdf).
* Funding numbers for some of the House Appropriations bills for FY 2021 were released today. The process of marking up and negotiating the funding for 12 different bills usually takes months and starts before July, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this will all be done in a narrower time period. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) wants to have all 12 bills passed before the August recess, and has said he is willing to delay recess for that to happen. The topline figures for the bills that have been released so far are included below. Summaries of the legislation that are available are hyperlinked below as well:
	+ [Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration (FDA)](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-agriculture-rural-development): $23.98B
	+ [Energy and Water Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-energy-and-water-development): $49.6B
	+ [Homeland Security](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-homeland-security-funding): $50.72B
	+ [Interior-Environment](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-interior-environment-funding): $36.76B
	+ [Legislative Branch](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-legislative-branch-funding): $4.19B
	+ [Military Construction and Veterans Affairs](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-military-construction-and): $250.9B
	+ [State and Foreign Operations](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-state-and-foreign-operations): $65.87B
	+ [Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS)-Education](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-labor-hhs-education-funding): $196.5B

**Updates at 11am ET**

**Senate**

* Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said the next COVID-19 relief package needs to protect kids, protect jobs, and reform liability laws so entities cannot get sued. Liability protection issues remain a red line issue for Senate Republicans.
	+ Senate Democrats on the other hand continue to push for increased funding for state and local governments, additional unemployment insurance, direct payments to Americans, and bolstering testing in the next COVID-19 relief package.
	+ Both sides currently agree that a package will come in the next work period. However, to date, no discussions are taking place. This next work period will be very busy with consideration of annual spending bills, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and further COVID-19 relief.
	+ Lawmakers reportedly view July 31 as an “unofficial deadline” for the next COVID-19 bill. As a reminder, unemployment benefits expire on July 31, but it is also when the House is set to recess for the August break and viewed as a last opportunity to achieve any major legislative accomplishments before the November election. The Senate is scheduled to recess August 7.
* Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), the Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that the push to rename military bases is bipartisan, even though the President opposes it.
	+ As a reminder, the House and Senate's NDAA bills include a provision to rename military bases honoring Confederate commanders. The House is also planning to vote on a bill to replacea bust of Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney from the Capitol.

**House**

* House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) told reporters late last week that she and her party anticipate that they will “have a bill”, referring to another COVID-19 relief bill, in the coming weeks. Speaker Pelosi also said she will not be leaving for the two-week July 4 recess to continue work in Washington, D.C.
* Bill texts, summaries, reports, and fact sheets for some of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 House Appropriations bills were released over the weekend. Those that have been released are indicated below.
	+ The current markup schedule is as follows:
		- FY 2021 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee Markup – Monday, 4:00pm (Text and Summary Released)
		- FY 2021 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Markup – Monday, 6:00pm (Text and Summary Released)
		- FY 2021 Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Markup – Monday, 8:00pm (Text and Summary Released)
		- FY 2021 Homeland Security Subcommittee Markup – Tuesday, 9:00am (Text and Summary Released)
		- FY 2021 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Markup – Tuesday, 11:00am
		- FY 2021 Legislative Branch Subcommittee Markup – Tuesday, 1:00pm
		- FY 2021 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Markup – Tuesday, 3:00pm
		- FY 2021 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Markup – Tuesday, 5:00pm
		- FY 2021 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Markup – Wednesday, 9:00am
		- FY 2021 Departments of Transportation, and House and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Markup – Wednesday, 11:00am
		- FY 2021 Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee Markup – Wednesday, 1:00pm
		- FY 2021 Defense Subcommittee Markup (Closed) – Wednesday, 3:00pm
			* Bill texts, summaries, reports, and fact sheets that are publicly available at this time can be found [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/legislation).
* The FY 2021 funding bill for State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs proposes billions in emergency COVID-19 funding and a restoration of U.S. contributions to the World Safety Organization (WHO).
	+ The legislation includes $200M for WHO, as well as a requirement that the money be provided within 60 days of the bill becoming law.
* The FY 2021 funding bill for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Related Agencies includes $24B that aims to boost rural broadband and also restricts the Trump Administration from easing meatpacking regulations or curbing food-stamp eligibility during the COVID-19 pandemic.
	+ The FDA would also receive $3.2B in discretionary funds in FY 2021, an increase of $40M from current levels.

**General Congress**

* + The House and Senate are in recess this week for the July 4 recess through July 17, but with Committees meeting in the House. Both are set to return on Monday, July 20.

**Administration**

**Updates at 7:00pm ET**

* The Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Department, released detailed loan-level data regarding the loans made under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The data shows:
	+ Around 4.9M PPP loans have been made totaling more than $520B;
	+ More than 51M jobs and over 80% of all small business employees have been supported through the PPP;
	+ 86.5% of all loans were for less than $150,000; and
	+ The top 15 PPP lenders were all banks.
		- A full press release can be found [here](https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1052) and a more detailed breakdown of the PPP loans can be found [here](https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP-Results-Sunday.pdf).
	+ The full spreadsheet that includes all PPP loans over $150,000 that have been granted can be found [here](https://sba.app.box.com/s/wz72fqag1nd99kj3t9xlq49deoop6gzf). The spreadsheet includes information about each business that received a PPP loan and classifies them by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.
		- More information on NAICS codes can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.naics.com%2fsearch%2f&c=E,1,-qRMMvJ2RTkBElcc_PbO3GIyQvr9De7I9XOESWykecgAUnEjsDd_Zo-wuzLV9gjK7hJ1R6u-g9ZqVHAUoxLM18raLUacxX1JBo12IEnEk9MF6b2RuuUWzoRhGg,,&typo=1).
* Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed that he will not be attend a meeting in the United States this week to celebrate the beginning of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade deal. Trudeau cited the pandemic and new threats of tariffs from the Trump Administration as reasons he would not attend the meeting.
* On Wednesday July 15, Senior Administration Officials from the Department of Energy (DOE) will hold a virtual round table discussion entitled "Industries of the Future: Strengthening American competitiveness through technological innovation in advanced manufacturing.” The panelists will include:
	+ Daniel Simmons, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
	+ Alex Fitzsimmons, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency
	+ Mark Planning, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs
		- Registration for the panel can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqdCxlHdMOHbNHlghmJR90XH1MOgFYlXnqVLX-Ip1DusBqDQ/viewform).
* On July 20, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) and American Public Transportation Association (APTA) will host a webinar on leveraging transit asset management data and the metropolitan planning process. Registration for the event, entitled “Improving Transit System State of Good Repair and Reliability” can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fconnectdotcqpub1.connectsolutions.com%2fcontent%2fconnect%2fc1%2f7%2fen%2fevents%2fevent%2fshared%2f1144754715%2fevent_registration.html%3fconnect-session%3dbreezbreeze4iukrrfv5rhqd3n%26sco-id%3d1276650372%26_charset_%3dutf-8&c=E,1,1GHBo41kqfZSwTqiJdMOW6xyYcmI98p_JJ9M6qH1LaKUEnp_BSAQ4YMAsAtGK24VWudv2-eBUl_XahPeefzGLC1584lFb_9stdjDziICpjqalUw,&typo=1).
* The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) announced modifications to temporary exemptions for nonimmigrant international students taking online classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the Fall 2020 semester. International F-1 and M-1 students attending schools that will be operating entirely online in the fall will not be allowed to take a full online course load and remain in the United States. Active students currently in the United States enrolled in such programs must depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to a school with in-person instruction, in order to remain in the U.S. legally. If not, they may face immigration consequences including deportation. A full press release can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.ice.gov%2fnews%2freleases%2fsevp-modifies-temporary-exemptions-nonimmigrant-students-taking-online-courses-during&c=E,1,iNKbWKQSDSR6DpRrlK3vM8T_-ddH0YhO5jUe9k_G7Z0ZUZ8Q60E7zBduSLblq2JvXMI-HyRN5GBbvDiGIq1LB_RfYbRcRaTz56GGWpiSYtKW5xfMXw,,&typo=1).

**Updates at 11am ET**

* The Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released new COVID-19 guidance for airlines and airports to help combat the spread of COVID-19 as air travel continues to increase.
	+ The guidance recommends that face coverings be mandated throughout airports and onboard airplanes.
	+ The guidance, entitled Runway to Recovery, can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.transportation.gov%2fsites%2fdot.gov%2ffiles%2f2020-07%2fRunway_to_Recovery_07022020.pdf%3fsource%3demail&c=E,1,3SnKST4ppN6igM-dZyiF_CcFRYrWKNjOH2p-qOCl7VsKFkqQ-bcbvjJvoL5rzbzN91K5Fn6_1ffdD8LgUp-jbd9yu8ET3Qj4UPEyWjxaId4n3DZiLatQ_rco&typo=1). The guidance also includes recommendations related to social distancing, temperature checks, health self-declarations, testing for COVID-19 and more.
* Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia yesterday stated that while the unemployment benefit was an important step in providing COVID-19 relief to Americans, “there are some states where you can get on an annual basis, $75,000 a year right now on unemployment. And I think as we reopen the economy, I don't know that we need a benefit like that.”
* The White House continues to push for a payroll tax cut and it is expected that White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows will likely be the key negotiator for an upcoming COVID-19 package, as opposed to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.
* The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) posted the updated United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) Uniform Regulations. All updates made to the previous regulations were technical in nature. The updated regulations can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fustr.gov%2ftrade-agreements%2ffree-trade-agreements%2funited-states-mexico-canada-agreement%2ffree-trade-commission-decisions%2fannex-i&c=E,1,f6RhY7U9hSN_BZahxNRlPuEdOoJcOVWEyq08AAsQIIdI9UdFSK93bo1F4YzwV7gJD7lO5TGvxtgWFkcmiqpvdKvi-d6Z1npBeZkhox5wxzf3GOzgVg,,&typo=1).
* **Federal Register Notices**
	+ The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a final rule adopting miscellaneous amendments to the required IFR (instrument flight rules) altitudes and changeover points for certain Federal airways, jet routes, or direct routes for which a minimum or maximum en route authorized IFR altitude is prescribed. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f06%2f2020-13260%2fifr-altitudes-miscellaneous-amendments&c=E,1,63CaoLFeOIdu-uy45TT36JLziGQfUEGCpqUbu9GUFDZ9GHJkzGGsX-uMUEjs9kVyfaDKGHKlRIyXc-mV-y0JKEsu8Bgc15z18GNcELexopfbqU_Q6vytug,,&typo=1).
	+ The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a proposed rule related to modernizing and expanding access to the 70/80/90 GHz bands. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f06%2f2020-14064%2fmodernizing-and-expanding-access-to-the-708090-ghz-bands&c=E,1,v6GOPqGR6Gi8di7k-A4UH82Jiiof0vE-Lw3Cbkb3f-5r2vIPiU2UDW1M23YCVw3vsZToxcLqUmo9F069oCp_d7ADz4WyDFA8sUyHXPMAZg,,&typo=1)
	+ FCC issued a notice of availability and request for comments related to whether certain docketed proceedings should be terminated as dormant. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f06%2f2020-14345%2ftermination-of-dormant-proceedings&c=E,1,Zy-_H_2wl1RCZzr84pHpTnJpRoxKobhUDbsO1xkfxAoyKT4QwVvMtT1wxpB54kx_eZXv_RFcKq5F-OuhQ8znxPURsW1GwpH0jm3PWBtnubXXmowRDp4,&typo=1).
	+ The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) issued a notice of final disposition and a grant of application for exemption to the Department of Energy for a renewal of its exemption from the 30-minute rest break provision of the Agency's hours-of-service (HOS) regulations for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f06%2f2020-14497%2fhours-of-service-hos-of-drivers-us-department-of-energy-doe-application-for-renewal-of-exemption&c=E,1,p48IPsloCnBrX8RApAQh7anRtsvumyoQgV8CQN1VnszwlpNu2kE6tCVWq2qCYk9LU99QN4PhGtwpkpUaVyvEJ8cLjKFUTc2hA0OAHEfrymNJ0t_Icejq&typo=1).

**Other News**

**Updates at 7:00pm ET**

* The biotechnology company Regeneron announced that they are progressing to the third stage of a COVID-19 double antibody treatment that can be used to treat and prevent COVID-19. This phase of the trial will assess the drug’s ability to prevent infection among uninfected people who’ve been in close proximity to an infected person. This trial is being jointly run with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). A full press release can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2finvestor.regeneron.com%2fnews-releases%2fnews-release-details%2fregeneron-announces-start-regn-cov2-phase-3-covid-19-prevention&c=E,1,aIGZaWhWinU2XEJ6pzb3O7X-G7QomEE3OHEXDCN_cU9F_BLRLVxAX8kOmac46pHqiiLXxAcuTdSfhSkTB11JKP1HvGEW0mgioS3Wk4BCpGSTyg,,&typo=1).

**Updates at 11am ET**

* An operational readiness review for the Boeing 737 MAX is anticipated over the next several weeks and will utilize federal pilots along with airline crews from around the world, all intended to vet changes to the fleet’s flight-control system.
	+ The goals of the airborne checks and ground-simulator sessions are to determine how well average airline pilots globally will be able to handle emergencies using the revised software.
* Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will not attend an in-person meeting in Washington, D.C. this week. Prime Minister Trudeau signaled he may not attend last week, citing recent U.S. tariffs and the COVID-19 pandemic.
	+ As a reminder, President Donald Trump and Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador are scheduled to meet in the U.S. this week on July 8-9 to commemorate the USMCA entry into force which occurred this past week on July 1.
* Four U.S. states, Arizona, California, Florida and Texas, reported a combined 25,000 new confirmed COVID-19 cases Thursday as the infection curve rose in 40 of the 50 states heading into the July 4 holiday weekend.
	+ The U.S. also recorded its largest single-day total of COVID-19 infections on Friday since the start of the pandemic with 57,497 confirmed cases.
	+ South Carolina, Texas, Arizona, Nevada and California reported record numbers of current COVID-19 hospitalizations. The U.S.’ seven-day average of new deaths fell to 485, down from 562 on June 28, but health experts cautioned that the count of infections would soon drive the number back up.
* A recent poll from Public Opinion Strategies found that 80% of voters, including 76% of independents and 73% of Democrats, support legislation to shield restaurants, workers and schools from being sued over COVID-19 if they reopen during the pandemic.
* The Supreme Court ruled that Alabama does not have to loosen ballot restrictions because of COVID-19.
	+ The vote was 5 to 4, with the court’s conservatives in the majority. Neither the majority nor the four justices who noted their dissent, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, supplied the reasoning for their votes.