July 10, 2020

TO: USTOA Members

FR: Terry Dale

Below is our COVID-19 Updates for July 9 & 10, 2020

**Congress**

**Updates from July 10, 2020**

**Both the House and Senate are in recess through July 20; however House Committees continue to meet.**

**Senate**

* Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) sent a letter to Defense Secretary Mark Esper asking for more information on whether the Pentagon is conducting an investigation into reports on whether Russia placed a bounty on U.S. troops. Sen. Duckworth asserts the information provided to the Senators to date is insufficient. The letter can be found [here](https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/20.07.09%20-%20Senator%20Duckworth%20Letter%20to%20Secretary%20Esper%20-%20DoD%20Investigation%20into%20U.S.%20Casualties%20in%20Afghanistan%20related%20to%20Alleged%20Russian%20Bounties.pdf).

**House**

* The House Appropriations Committee has advanced all 12 subcommittee bills to the full committee. Committee leadership intends for all bills to be approved by the full committee by the end of Wednesday. The full House is expected to consider the bills the week of July 20. One of the main points of contention is Democrats’ inclusion of almost $250B in emergency funding, which Republicans believe violates the budget agreement reached between the two parties last year. At the end of tonight’s update, we have detailed the emergency funding in each bill and how that funding will be spent.
  + The following bills were considered today:
    - [Interior-Environment](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-interior-environment-funding): $36.76B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-19 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Interior%20Report%20Full%20Committee%20Print.pdf).
    - [Legislative Branch](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-legislative-branch-funding): $4.19B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-18 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY21LB_38861.pdf).
  + The remaining bills will be considered next week:
    - [Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-commerce-justice-science): $71.473B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
    - [Defense](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-defense-funding-bill): $694.6B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
    - [Energy and Water Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-energy-and-water-development): $49.6B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
    - [Financial Services](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-financial-services-and): $24.64B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
    - [Homeland Security](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-homeland-security-funding): $50.72B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
      * The bill did not include any funding for the border wall and rescinded the Department of Homeland Security’s ability to transfer funds between different departments.
    - [Labor-Health and Human Services-Education](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-labor-hhs-education-funding): $196.5B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
    - [Transportation-Housing and Urban Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-transportation-housing-and): $158.3B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
  + The following bills have already been considered by the full committee:
    - [State and Foreign Operations](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-state-and-foreign-operations): $65.87B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 29-21 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/2020-07-03%20SFOPS%20Report%20Full%20Committee.pdf).
    - [Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration:](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-agriculture-rural-development) $23.98B
      * Approved by the full committee by voice vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Ag%20Report%20received%207-2-20.pdf).
    - [Military Construction and Veterans Affairs](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-military-construction-and): $250.9B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-20 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Milcon%20VA%20FY%2021%20Report%20Full%20Comm%20Print.pdf).
* Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) introduced H.R. 7516, which would establish a Federal clean energy standard that would require U.S electricity producers to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. A press release on the bill can be found [here](https://degette.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/degette-introduces-legislation-to-cut-carbon-emissions-from-us) and the bill text can be found [here](https://degette.house.gov/sites/degette.house.gov/files/DEGETT_057_xml.pdf).
* Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) introduced the National Broadband Plan for the Future Act. The legislation would instruct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to update the National Broadband Plan. A press release on the bill can be found [here](https://eshoo.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-eshoo-introduces-legislation-update-national-broadband-plan) and bill text can be found [here](https://eshoo.house.gov/sites/eshoo.house.gov/files/National%20Broadband%20Plan%20for%20the%20Future%20Act%20of%202020.pdf).
* 20 members of the House Agriculture Committee, led by Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN), Rep. James Comer (R-KY) and Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) sent a letter to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai stating that they were concerned about Ligado Networks’ 5G plans and that they are concerned it would interfere with the operation of GPS. In the letter, the signatories asked the FCC to reconsider utilizing Ligado for 5G buildout. The letter can be found [here](https://thompson.house.gov/sites/thompson.house.gov/files/FINAL_Bipartisan%20Letter%20to%20FCC%20regarding%20the%20Ligado%20Decision_.pdf).
* Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) called on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Robert Redfield to testify at a July 23 Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education hearing regarding school reopening in the fall. The press release can be found [here](https://edlabor.house.gov/media/press-releases/chairman-scott-invites-cdc-director-to-testify-after-wh-pressures-it-to-change-school-guidelines).

**General Congress**

* Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) both said that they plan to attend the Republican National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida next month, despite the growing number of Republicans who have said that they do not plan to attend. However, Leader McConnell said that the convention is a “challenging situation,” and that we “will have to wait and see how things look in late August to determine if it is safe to convene that many people.”

**Updates from July 9, 2020**

**Senate**

* Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) distanced himself from President Trump’s criticism of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for reopening schools in the fall. While Leader McConnell said that the plans will be a challenge for schools to implement, he said that it is important to back the CDC’s plans.
* Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC), who introduced the Senate Republicans police reform bill, the JUSTICE Act (S. 3985), said he is working with Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) to revive the bill. Bass introduced the House’s police reform bill, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020 (H.R. 7120), which passed the House.
* A group of 24 Democratic Senators sent a letter to Senate leadership asking for $32B in emergency funding for public transportation systems through the end of 2021. This would be in addition to the $25B that the sector received in the CARES Act (S.3548). The letter can be found [here](https://ustoa.com/r/ustoa-filemanager/source/resources/senate-dems-on-public-transportation.pdf).
* Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Susan Collins (R-ME) announced on Wednesday that they plan to introduce the Hotspots and Online Technology and Services Procurement for our Tribes and States (HOTSPOTS) Act, which would create a two year, $160M hotspot pilot program that would allow states, territories, and tribes to give internet-connected devices to public libraries in low-income and rural areas. A press release on the legislation can be found [here](https://www.manchin.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/manchin-collins-bill-to-increase-funding-for-library-broadband-hotspots-in-rural-america).
* Sens. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND) recently introduced S. 4178, which would establish a tax credit for workplace safety to help small businesses and nonprofits implement COVID-19 prevention measures. A press release on the legislation can be found [here](https://www.cramer.senate.gov/news/press-releases/sens-cramer-sinema-introduce-bill-to-help-small-businesses-nonprofits-implement-covid-19-safety-measures).
* Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) said he will not attend the Republican National Convention in Jacksonville, FL in August. Roberts became the sixth sitting Republican Senator to say they will not attend.
  + As a reminder, Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Mitt Romney (R-UT), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) have all indicated they will not attend the convention in Florida.

**House**

* The House Appropriations Committee advanced all bills to the full committee. House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) announced she hopes that all work on the spending bills in the Committee will be completed by next Thursday. The full House is expected to consider the bills the week of July 20.
  + The following bills have been considered by the full committee:
    - [State and Foreign Operations](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-state-and-foreign-operations): $65.87B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 29-21 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/2020-07-03%20SFOPS%20Report%20Full%20Committee.pdf).
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    - [Military Construction and Veterans Affairs](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-military-construction-and): $250.9B
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    - [Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-commerce-justice-science): $71.473B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
      * $61B in emergency funding is slated to go to building better broadband infrastructure and phasing Huawei gear out of American markets.
    - [Defense](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-defense-funding-bill): $694.6B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
      * The committee report is [here](https://ustoa.com/r/ustoa-filemanager/source/resources/7-9-20-house-defense-appropriations-report.pdf).
    - [Energy and Water Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-energy-and-water-development): $49.6B
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      * Advanced to the full committee.
    - [Transportation-Housing and Urban Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-transportation-housing-and): $158.3B
      * Advanced to the full committee.
* House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced that she believed $1T to be insufficient funding for the next COVID-19 relief package. Pelosi argued that Congress will need to approve at least double that amount amid the surge in cases.
  + As a reminder, the $1T topline for the next COVID-19 relief package is supported by the White House and Senate Majority Leader McConnell.
* House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee Chairman Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) introduced the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act. The legislation would establish a comprehensive maritime emergency relief authority to enable the Maritime Administration (MARAD) to provide financial assistance to stabilize and ensure the reliable functioning of the U.S. Maritime Transportation System (MTS) in the event of a national emergency or disaster, including the current COVID-19 public health emergency. A press release on the legislation is [here](https://transportation.house.gov/news/press-releases/chairs-defazio-maloney-introduce-legislation-to-provide-relief-to-maritime-sector-amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic). The bill text is [here](https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Maritime%20Transportation%20System%20Emergency%20Relief%20Act_signed.pdf).
* Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) led a letter with 7 other House Democrats to Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador asking for a detailed response on reports of labor practices in Mexico which fail to comply with the United States-Mexico-Canada-Agreement (USMCA). The letter can be found [here](https://delauro.house.gov/sites/delauro.house.gov/files/documents/USMCA%20Labor%20Working%20Group%20Letter%20to%20President%20AMLO%2007.08.2020.pdf).
* Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) sent a letter to the CEOs of two major American airlines criticizing them for their decision to begin filling their airplanes to capacity again amidst the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases. The letter can be found [here](https://pocan.house.gov/sites/pocan.house.gov/files/documents/American%20and%20United%20Airlines%20Flight%20Capacity%20Concerns%20Letter%207-8-20.pdf).
* On Thursday it was announced that on July 21, executives from all five of the leading COVID-19 vaccine developers, all of whom are participating in the government’s Operation Warp Speed, will testify before the House Energy and Commerce Oversight Subcommittee. A press release about the upcoming hearing can be found [here](https://energycommerce.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/ec-oversight-and-investigations-subcommittee-to-hold-hearing-with-covid-19).
* House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Jim Jordan (R-OH) and Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) asked Parler CEO John Matze to testify on the state of competition in social media as part of the Judiciary Committee’s bipartisan antitrust investigation into social media.
  + As a reminder, Parler is a new social media website that is favored by conservatives amidst free speech concerns with other social media forms.

**General Congress**

* The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released new deficit data that showed an $863B Federal deficit last month compared to an $8B deficit in June 2019. Spending by the Small Business Administration (SBA) increased from $80M in June 2019 to $511B last month amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Administration**

**Updates from July 10, 2020**

* Reports indicate that the Administration may attempt to resubmit paperwork repealing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, after the Supreme Court ruled that the justification for repeal was not sufficient in the previous attempt.
  + The United States Conference of Mayors sent a letter to the President and Congress urging them to maintain the DACA program until Congress has passed legislation that has settled the matter. Read the full letter [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.usmayors.org%2f2020%2f07%2f10%2fin-open-letter-mayors-urge-president-to-preserve-daca-program-protect-dreamers-until-congress-can-act%2f&c=E,1,ic_Nk6kxmIyzpT8bn3Ml-tJO5OONutwcBF2WVOdOikmOI33E507JidQgsxgZkemVBL3fhPKaL56cFQiXN7QckjI-eMyF7R2kxcTbJeyNCM0Fs3nu4MZCpF10efpK&typo=1).
* Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) President and Chairman Kimberly A. Reed hosted a teleconference discussion where she emphasized how EXIM’s relationship with the private sector can provide new opportunities for U.S companies. She also launched a discussion about what EXIM can do to help American space and technology companies remain competitive globally.
* The Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are issuing an interim final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement section 889(a)(1)(B) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019 (P. L. 115-232).
  + Section 889(a)(1)(B) prohibits executive agencies from entering into, or extending or renewing, a contract with an entity that uses any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system, on or after August 13, 2020, unless an exception applies or a waiver is granted.
  + The prepublication version of the interim final rule can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2facquisition.gov%2fsites%2fdefault%2ffiles%2fpage_file_uploads%2fFAR%2520Case%25202019-009-Interim_Rule_prepublication_07_10_20.pdf&c=E,1,1N5y2jO6n6LlctWdr7xJILvYlwTR6ckz1jj9JL0N9-P7oj-fjT5GrKofqlUTUsIRsgKtVway1B8CRrE7GbcJi6S4PB7txlnC_JXwhzPit97skKvvAe0DsfuzoPGwNw,,&typo=1). It is expected to be posted to the Federal Register as early as this Monday.
* The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced Thursday that it is starting a formal investigation into Boeing in response to several employees’ alleging they faced duress that threatened their independence while assessing aircraft designs on behalf of the government.
* The FAA is aiming to finalize a rule on drone flights over people in December, according to Jay Merkle, the head of the agency’s drone integration office. This timing is consistent with what was posted in the most recent [Unified Agenda.](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.reginfo.gov%2fpublic%2fdo%2feAgendaViewRule%3fpubId%3d202004%26RIN%3d2120-AK85&c=E,1,yoJzeMJkbRdh6ppr13GFI9e34zY4Ayq4Xm-0--gnqJ4AxkgDnyEHts3l446AkhH4vn8sZ0b6j-P_lY8KZcWMm5YcgZ03aoilMsrVNeGrwibB51VgwE0,&typo=1)
* United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer said that that creating a deal between the United States and the United Kingdom (U.K.) on European subsidies for Airbus was “possible” but “tricky.” The U.K. is one of four European governments that provide subsidies for Airbus, in addition to France, Germany and Spain.
* President Trump said that it is unlikely that there will be a second phase of a trade deal with China as the U.S.’ relationship with China has been severely damaged.
  + As a reminder, the U.S. signed a phase one deal with China in January to increase exports of agricultural, energy and other products. However, China has said they will struggle to meet their purchase requirements.
* President Donald Trump has nominated Lt. Gen. Scott Berrier to be the next Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Currently, Barrier is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence.
* Joint Chiefs Chairman General Mark Milley said that Confederate leaders are traitors to the United States and that he supports a review of changing the names of Army bases that hold Confederate names.
  + As a reminder, President Trump has threatened to veto any defense legislation that includes a provision about renaming military bases.
* The Department of Commerce (DOC) released all the comments they received on their 5G Security Strategy. DOC received over 80 comments from different parties, including the city of New York, AT&T and Qualcomm. The majority of the comments referenced the recent push to open 5G architecture to increase the number of vendors that can participate. The collection of comments can be found [here](https://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2020/comments-national-strategy-secure-5g-implementation-plan).
* Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Thursday that the airline industry, along with hotels and restaurants, will need more help from the government in order to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Steve Verheul, Canada’s chief negotiator for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) noted that new U.S tariffs on Canadian aluminum would give Chinese and Russian producers an edge on the American market.
* The District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) needs to reconsider whether half a dozen “attainment” areas around the U.S. meet the 2015 ozone standard.
* Federal Register Notices:
  + The FCC issued a final rule on the creation of Interstitial 12.5 Kilohertz channels in the 800 MHz Band between 809-817/854-862 MHz. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f10%2f2020-12007%2fcreation-of-interstitial-125-kilohertz-channels-in-the-800-mhz-band-between-809-817854-862-mhz&c=E,1,pPopLbxRGstx36LaqtH0Lbz0rW5bVbV4ceNJ2yxSdvNyu0itwBBkFBSZcIlHLpDjGTiErxUkqGPu_DGfii0zPrhd5a1PJaGSEnEgEw_83jOBYFb2mS-d&typo=1).
  + USTR issued a notice of product exclusions for China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f10%2f2020-14916%2fnotice-of-product-exclusions-and-amendments-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to-technology&c=E,1,njYXpN_f4kn4BU7BC2MNhsAdLmDl3-PTA0cMe4-OBZKMhwXo4mTThtho3W-N_L3lkOpC7ehE8yA0IEXKacaoAhkIihlkTMUcRGA8fD1IimRzHg,,&typo=1).
  + The Department of Labor issued a notice on High-Wage Components of the Labor Value Content Requirements Under the USMCA. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f10%2f2020-14845%2fagency-information-collection-activities-comment-request-information-collections-high-wage&c=E,1,FAYSiwUU1t7OQCD0EG0W77LS1ByZCUVgtGuvawx9JK08HB7nler_zeo-ews4iBrkaib8XJ8_KOy5HxMORQZc98ESQaZ154n6kTEwg2p964RNs5FNGQ,,&typo=1).

**Updates from July 9, 2020**

* According to the Department of Labor, 1.3M Americans filed for unemployment last week. The report showed a continuation in the decline of the number of Americans filing for unemployment from the previous week.
  + According to new data from the Census Bureau, 32M Americans utilized unemployment aid in the last week of June.
* Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) Chairwoman Kimberly A. Reed met with the House Republicans’ China Task Force yesterday. Reed briefed the group on the role of EXIM and how EXIM can be used as a tool to counter China.
* A new report from CBO argued that giving the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) an additional $20B over the next decade for collection and enforcement would add $61B to the Treasury. Additionally, the report argued that if the IRS was given an additional $40B for enforcement and collection, the Treasury would receive over $100B in additional revenue. The report can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.cbo.gov%2fpublication%2f56467&c=E,1,q7c0ZDSu0pDAcbX0oqFb0nQ7uBKRHV0w8RNukDnpSaM20cJyNVnBTyK0FthJuYp6bAkq06Ri9DbtpFbVjpOPbEuovwfJoWD0HjFJCwSjWsqfYzNoJkI,&typo=1).
* Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Steve Dickson announced that the FAA will issue a final rule on the remote identification of drones this December. The proposed rule received over 50,000 comments.
* Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Administrator David Pekoske ordered TSA to take new precautions from COVID-19 after meeting with a whistleblower who warned about gaps in protections for both employees and travelers. The new measures include eye protection, more frequent changing of gloves and increased sanitization.
* Despite the recent implementation of the USMCA, concerns have already risen about the prospects of the deal.
  + A coalition of business groups from the National Foreign Trade Council and other U.S. business groups sent a letter to Mexican officials expressing concerns with Mexico’s customs commitments. The letter can be found [here](https://ustoa.com/r/ustoa-filemanager/source/resources/national-foreign-trade-council-letter-to-mexico-7-9.pdf).
  + The Alliance for Trade Enforcement sent a letter to United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer highlighting Mexico’s failure to approve biotech crops for importation. Additionally, the letter said Canada has “unfair” pricing and reimbursement practices with pharmaceutical products developed by American companies. The letter can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fenforcementalliance.org%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f07%2fAFTE-Letter-to-USTR-on-USMCA.pdf&c=E,1,1zD82xWQGnTlfvtVutxV6xqnnGYUOYexbJNDJDrQiiOjX57w8_Vl8Nqmqcrbr6xkCOdl59eSQ4jsMAclq5uW2aWvH9P6k_pbzJ07voXWvg,,&typo=1).
* USTR Lighthizer made comments Thursday afternoon in which he characterized the European Union’s (E.U.) network of bilateral free trade agreements as a catalyst that has eroded the global multilateral trade system. He compared the E.U.’s more than 70 bilateral trade agreements as an economic form of colonialism that has undermined the sorts of systems that the World Trade Organization (WTO) promotes. Lighthizer proposed getting rid of free trade agreements altogether and replace them with a robust network of multilateral or bilateral systems but also noted that he has no issue with regional trade agreements.
  + In this same online discussion, which was hosted by the London based policy institute Chatham House, USTR Lighthizer said that the U.S will soon announce sanctions on France as part of a dispute over their digital services tax. The French tax, USTR Lighthizer contended, has unfairly targeted American digital firms like Google and Facebook.
* The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled (7-2) that the Manhattan District Attorney, Cyrus Vance Jr., could obtain the President’s tax returns. In another case, the Court ruled (7-2) that Congressional investigators need to do more in order to obtain President Trump’s financial records. In both cases, Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito dissented. Both cases will be sent back to lower courts for further review, meaning it is unlikely that the President’s financial records will be released to the public before election day.
* Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai announced that the FCC has committed all $200M allocated through the CARES Act to help telehealth providers secure internet connectivity. In total, 539 providers received grants.
* **Federal Register Notices:**
  + The Department of Education issued a notice on Equitable Services to Students and Teachers in Non-Public Schools. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f09%2f2020-14817%2fagency-information-collection-activities-comment-request-cares-act-programs-equitable-services-to&c=E,1,YaRvtfLRuuhI7S0sCcGp68XYK4vUhdh7Evxu3VvCiWiZrKa-esmC7AywEDFb1KDoDcuomXNyT-CtZYJxArqRukOD5PE1ww7_Kbg0U_MXi5GrBQ,,&typo=1).
  + The FAA and Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a notice of a meeting for the FAA’s Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f09%2f2020-14792%2ffederal-aviation-administration-aviation-rulemaking-advisory-committee-meeting&c=E,1,JBOeuAUcDaO4jeK4vMkY-_od3J07epbLO_WEOs0EsjRt1tRPsA4QIUqTbGXnXprLgRcH06C2o_jJJQyjqqIyfKrLSGeK-MZae4D1pYfJZJRPGAbN&typo=1).
  + USTR issued a notice of product exclusion extensions for China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f09%2f2020-14833%2fnotice-of-product-exclusion-extensions-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to-technology&c=E,1,w8TyY7E7u4eb1cuT4rcE8J6zwtOxmv0rHno7Ad5khwkjOq6YfQvJ8h9NX3mk9utCMeNPgSHui2scjg1-e0y7yQcQ5I5ooLOu4TmFoW8P61_alAO38bJtiBG1B1gy&typo=1).

**Other News**

**Updates from July 10, 2020**

* Both President Trump and Democratic Nominee Joe Biden are planning on holding infrastructure related events next week where they will lay out their infrastructure plans. Infrastructure may be a key point in the campaign this fall.
  + President Trump will hold his announcement in Atlanta on Wednesday where he plans promote his Administration’s transportation agenda and announce a new plan to speed infrastructure development.
  + Biden said he is planning on rolling out a blueprint to promote more sustainable infrastructure and a clean energy economy.
* The U.S once again set a single day record for new COVID-19 cases on Thursday. The new figure of 59,880 infections is the sixth single day record that the U.S has broken in the last ten days.
  + Six states set single day case records Thursday as well: Alabama, Texas, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, and Oregon.
  + Texas had its fourth straight day of record-breaking single day COVID-19 cases, with 10,900 on Thursday, with a large amount in Hidalgo County.
* American Airlines pilot and union representative Dennis Tajer said on CNBC it is a necessity that the Federal government provide a requirement for masks on planes. Tajer added that the recommendations the Administration issued on mask usage are not robust enough.
* The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) sent a letter to leadership on the House and Senate Armed Services Committee urging Congress to fully fund Navy research and development plans for unmanned ships in the FY 2021 NDAA.
* On Thursday Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) appealed District of Columbia District Court Judge James Boasberg’s ruling from Monday that mandated the company cease usage on the Dakota Access pipeline while the Army Corps of Engineers completes the requisite environmental review. ETP’s argument is that it will not be able to meet the judge’s 30-day deadline.
* The World Trade Organization (WTO) announced that the decision for who will be their next Director General will not be decided until at least November.
* The European Commission will introduce a proposal for a digital tax in early 2021 and plan to implement it by Jan 1, 2023 at the latest, according to [a new budget proposal](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.politico.eu%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f07%2fMichel-MFF-proposal.pdf%3futm_source%3dPOLITICO.EU%26utm_campaign%3d55c101daaa-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_07_10_10_42%26utm_medium%3demail%26utm_term%3d0_10959edeb5-55c101daaa-190611404%26source%3demail&c=E,1,tT95Pw7M8y-L_dLOeBKxa2q7JbW3uY5P16-P_IHfoEo_ia6FYnGFv1vIu4n8rrjj9yilqwf4ddUZimkmm6GRbRAf71Ciwy42zrplSjPRAYpgn8jcr4VsycQ,&typo=1). The tax is expected to bring in €1.3B for the European Union.
  + As we reported yesterday, USTR Lighthizer announced yesterday that the U.S is considering imposing retaliatory duties on France in order to dissuade them from maintaining a tax that impacts a lot of U.S tech companies. Today it was reported that the duties could be worth more than $2B.
* The American Academy of Pediatrics issued a statement disagreeing with the Trump Administration’s threats to withhold federal funds from schools that do not fully reopen. The statement is joined by the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the School Superintendents Association. The statement can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fservices.aap.org%2fen%2fnews-room%2fnews-releases%2faap%2f2020%2fpediatricians-educators-and-superintendents-urge-a-safe-return-to-school-this-fall%2f%3fsource%3demail&c=E,1,kZeFqrZs45gWNJ2Js2WqepSOpCZSkWtaOc8QUwTG6jdzoNqv3ox2q88wimgKo2R1KoxYoOa0kP2nm5l3ZahesX2bvhwIhDdjgG05QEqYl5ClM4DbOsRSP8An&typo=1).

**FY21 House Appropriations Emergency Funding Breakdown**

* **Labor-Health and Human Services-Education**
  + $24.25B in emergency funding:
    - $4.5B for Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to support advanced research and development and manufacturing of vaccines
    - $925M to help states address spikes in unemployment claims
    - $5B to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
    - $9B to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
    - $9B for the following public health and emergency response activities:
      * $4B for enhanced public health prevention efforts, including an influenza vaccination campaign
      * $2B for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreements to increase state and local public health emergency response capabilities
      * $1B to improve capabilities at state and local public health laboratories
      * $1B to strengthen global public health preparedness and response capacity
      * $400M to modernize public health data surveillance and analytics
      * $400M for the Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund
      * $200M for public health workforce development
* **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development**
  + $75B in emergency funding:
    - $26B to the Department of Transportation (DOT):
      * $3B for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER/BUILD)
      * $10.5M for DOT Cyber Security Initiatives
      * $500M for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Facilities and Equipment
      * $2.5B for FAA Grants-in-Aid for Airports
      * $5B for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements
      * $100M for the Magnetic Levitation Technology Deployment Program
      * $5B for Northeast Corridor Grants to Amtrak
      * $3B for National Network Grants to Amtrak
      * $5B for Capital Investment Grants
      * $125M for Maritime Administration Operations and Training
      * $345.5M for State Maritime Academy Operations
      * $100M for assistance to small shipyards
      * $1B for the Port Infrastructure Development Program
      * $7.5M for the DOT Office of Inspector General
    - $49B for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):
      * $24.25B for the Public Housing Capital Fund
      * $300M for the CHOICE Neighborhoods Initiative
      * $1B for Native American Programs
      * $20M for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program
      * $4B for the Community Development Block Grant Program
      * $17.5B for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program
      * $55M for the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity
      * $750M for capital improvements for properties receiving project-based rental assistance
      * $750M for the Housing for the Elderly Program
      * $179M for Housing for Persons with Disabilities
      * $100M for the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
      * $100M for the HUD Cybersecurity and Information Technology Fund
      * $7.5M for the HUD Office of Inspector General
* **Interior-Environment**
  + $15B in emergency funding:
    - $13B in additional funds for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) infrastructure grants
    - $1.5B for the Indian Health Service to construct health care facilities
    - $500M for the Bureau of Indian Education for school construction needs
* **State and Foreign Operations**
  + $10B in emergency funding:
    - $955M for diplomatic programs
    - $4.4M for the Department of State Office of Inspector General
    - $105M for United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Operating Expenses
    - $3M for the USAID Office of Inspector General
    - $2.5B for global health programs
    - $900M for development assistance
    - $1.125B for international disaster assistance
    - $1.5B for the Economic Support Fund
    - $500M for assistance to Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia
    - $1.125B for migration and refugee assistance
    - $10M for the Inter-American Foundation
    - $10M for the United States African Development Foundation
    - $1.28B for International Organizations and Programs for the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan
* **Financial Services**
  + $61B in emergency funding:
    - All funding is for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to expand availability of broadband to unserved areas, as well as multi-year funding for broadband mapping and replacement of telecommunications equipment deemed to pose a national security threat to the United States.
* **Energy and Water**
  + $43.5B in emergency funding:
    - $23.5B in emergency funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) to modernize energy infrastructure
    - $7.78B to provide affordable energy efficient infrastructure
    - $3.35B for better electricity infrastructure
    - $1.25B for enhanced nuclear energy infrastructure
    - $1.25B for fossil energy infrastructure
    - $6.25B for national laboratories, scientific user facilities, and universities to accelerate ongoing construction projects across the country
    - $250M for demonstrations of transformational energy technologies
    - $3.13B for nuclear cleanup work
    - $3B in emergency funding to accelerate work on Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation projects
    - $17B to accelerate work on Army Corps of Engineers projects around the country
    - $110M on feasibility investigations
    - $10B to accelerate projects that provide protection from floods and ensure navigable channels to move goods
    - $5B for operations and maintenance for damaged Army Corps of Engineers projects across the country
* **Military Construction-Veterans Affairs**
  + $12.5B in emergency funding:
    - All to the Department of Veterans Affairs
* **Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration**
  + No emergency funding, according to the press release.
* **Homeland Security**
  + No emergency funding, according to the press release.
* **Legislative Branch**
  + No emergency funding, according to the press release.
* **Commerce, Justice, Science**
  + No emergency funding, according to the press release.
* **Defense**
  + No emergency funding, according to the press release.

**Updates from July 9, 2020**

* The U.S set a daily record for new COVID-19 cases Wednesday, with 59,400 new infections announced. This was the fifth record setting day in the last nine days.
  + New reports from the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation suggest that the U.S. could reach up to 200,000 COVID-19 deaths by election day.
  + So far there have been 134,000 COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.
* Nominations for the next Director General of the World Trade Organization officially closed on Thursday. There are currently 8 candidates for the position, including 3 women. The nominees are:
  + Dr. Liam Fox, United Kingdom;
  + Mr. Mohammad Maziad Al-Tuwaijri, Saudi Arabia;
  + Ms. Aminda C. Mohamed, Kenya;
  + Ms. Yoo Myung-hee, South Korea;
  + Mr. Tudor Uliansovschi, Moldova;
  + Mr. Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh, Egypt;
  + Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Nigeria;
  + Dr. Jesus Seade Kuri, Mexico
* 2020 Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden announced a new policy plan for the U.S economy on Thursday which would entail more extensive oversight on outsourcing, investments in research and development, and would create 5M new manufacturing and innovation jobs.
* 2020 Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders’ (I-VT) “unity task force” unveiled their recommendations that called for ridding the country of carbon pollution that emanates from power plants by 2035. The task force, which is co-chaired by former Secretary of State John Kerry and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) also recommended the building of 60,000 wind turbines and that all new buildings to have net zero emissions by 2030.
  + The unity task force also made recommendations surrounding tech-related issues. They called for stronger net neutrality protections, the establishment of guidelines for biometric surveillance, and more robust protections for gig-economy workers.
* Rishi Sunak, the United Kingdom’s Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced a series of new policies aimed at boosting employment which will cost 30B pounds. The policies include a six-month 15% cut on the value-added tax for spending on hotels, restaurants and other tourism industry entities. Additionally, the United Kingdom announced that they will raise the land transaction tax threshold for new home buyers through next March. The policies are another example of nations across the world seeking innovative ways to spur economic recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
* According to new data released by the Rhodium Group, greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S fell 18% this spring. The group’s findings also concluded that greenhouse gas emissions will likely be 6-12% below pre-COVID-19 projections for 2020. The full report can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2frhg.com%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f07%2fTaking-Stock-2020-The-COVID-19-Edition.pdf&c=E,1,mssRsHwXV4CITq506C5LVIRMWBPIo-PI_uIBf54Js1BWNrlCQQEY4ldeQZ3-HADCBAnpYw15kmtWWWJSTdbAYFYeKF70tOCTAbNSwUv7wQjlJa-3tEwo&typo=1).
* Despite D.C. District Court Judge James Boasberg’s order on Monday, the operators of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) have yet to shut down the pipeline in North Dakota. The judge ordered the pipeline to be empty of all oil by August 5.
* Two major U.S. airlines have temporarily stopped flights to Hong Kong due to newly imposed testing requirements for the crew of incoming flights.
* Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced that Virginia had joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which is a regional carbon cap-and-trade program. Northam said that 45% of the proceeds from the program will go towards coastal resilience and community flood prevention.
* Pennsylvania’s House of Representatives passed legislation that would block Governor Tom Wolf’s (D) authority to control carbon dioxide emissions. Additionally, the legislation would prevent Wolf from joining the RGGI without legislative approval. Wolf said that he will veto the bill.