October 9, 2020

Below is our COVID-19 Update for October 9, 2020:

**COVID-19 Relief**

* The status of COVID-19 relief negotiations was in question repeatedly this week as leadership in Congress, as well as in the White House, sent conflicting messages regarding conversations and prospects for additional relief.
* Earlier in the week, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said that he and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were actively considering a stimulus measure aimed at distributing checks to Americans while providing aid to airlines and small businesses.
  + However, reports on Friday indicated that the White House pitched a new, broader relief proposal to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) with a topline of $1.8T.
  + Speaker Pelosi said that she plans to review the spending and policy aspects of the proposal.
  + State and local funding may continue to be an obstacle to negotiations, as the Administration is proposing $300B, far less than what Democrats have pushed.
* After President Trump indicated that he wanted to halt negotiations on additional relief, Speaker Pelosi said that there could be no action on a stand-alone bill to aid airlines or any other sector of the economy without an agreement with the White House and Congressional Republicans on a broader economic stimulus package.
  + However, Speaker Pelosi and Mnuchin continued to have conversations, indicating that additional relief is not completely off the table.
* Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), who has been less directly involved in negotiations thus far but is still a major player in passage of additional relief, stated that Congress is unlikely to reach an agreement on a COVID-19 relief package before the election. Majority Leader McConnell pointed to the election as a major impediment to reaching common ground.
  + Elevate believes that Majority Leader McConnell remains committed to securing a majority of the Republican Senators before bringing to the floor an agreement between the White House and Congressional Democrats.
* Elevate thinks that until each party believes that a relief package is necessary to help them on election day, enactment of comprehensive relief is unlikely.

**Congress**

**Senate**

* Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman Roger Wicker (R-MS) and House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR) are preparing legislation to codify the Pentagon’s current plans to auction its 3.45-3.55 GHz airwaves. This would prevent any Administration reversals regarding selling dedicated licenses to spectrum, as some fear could happen if the Pentagon wants to change its 5G approach and move away from the traditional way of selling spectrum at auctions.
* The Brand USA Extension Act ([S. 2203](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2203)) was reported by Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman Wicker with amendments and placed on the Senate legislative calendar. As a reminder, the Brand USA Extension Act would extend funding for Brand USA, the Corporation for Travel Promotion, through 2027 and raise the fee for using the electronic system for travel authorization.
* The Senate Judiciary Committee will begin consideration of Amy Coney Barrett to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court on Monday. More information on the nomination hearings that are scheduled to be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday can be found [here](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings).
* Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE) sent a [letter](https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/b/bb57b33d-db94-4cd4-b6b0-d0ae4be38c28/13092A2F584F36CA09DDBA448AB754B6.10-06-20-tc-et-al-anarchist-cities-letter-to-epa.pdf) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler warning against the withholding of funds intended for the cleanup of contaminated land and drinking water sources in several Democratic-led cities.
  + This letter is in response to a September [memo](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-reviewing-funding-state-local-government-recipients-permitting-anarchy-violence-destruction-american-cities/) and [guidance](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/M-20-36.pdf) from the White House on withholding federal tax dollars from cities that "allow themselves to deteriorate into lawless zones."
  + An EPA spokesperson said the agency "will continue to follow guidance from the White House in accordance with its statutory obligations.”

**House**

* House Judiciary Republicans Ken Buck (R-CO), Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Doug Collins (R-GA), and Andy Biggs (R-AZ) signed on to a [response](https://buck.house.gov/sites/buck.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/Buck%20Report.pdf) to the Antitrust Subcommittee’s report released earlier this week. In their “Third Way” report, the Members endorsed some Democratic-led proposals to rein in major tech platforms, while rejecting the more sweeping calls for non-discrimination rules or separations that would block the companies from competing against rivals on their own platforms.
* House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) said that the Biden campaign is planning to act on an infrastructure package as soon as February, if the former Vice President wins the election.
  + Chairman DeFazio said that the campaign has expressed interest in his $494B surface transportation proposal, which would create a range of new federal grant programs and includes a heavy focus on combating climate change.
* Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR) will become the Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee, replacing Rep. Tom Graves (R-GA), who left Congress on October 4. Rep. Womack is also the Ranking Member of the Budget Committee.
* Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Don Beyer (D-VA), David Trone (D-MD), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) sent a [letter](https://connolly.house.gov/uploadedfiles/joint_letter_to_omb_on_anarchy_memo_final.pdf) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) opposing the President’s proposal to cut federal funding for “anarchist jurisdictions,” referring to cities controlled by Democrats amid protests over systemic racism and police brutality.
* Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) announced Thursday that he proposed a plan to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on how communities along the Mexican border can work with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to reopen nonessential traffic before the expiration of border restrictions on October 21. The plan would screen nonessential travelers through medical screenings by CBP officers and through community health screenings by local personnel.
  + As a reminder, the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada borders remain closed to nonessential travel until at least October 21.
* Speaker Pelosi and Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) are preparing to introduce legislation to establish a commission of doctors, psychiatrists, and former executive branch officials of both parties to evaluate whether the Vice President should take over in the event a President is stricken with severe illness or injury and is not fit to serve.
* Reps. Andre Carson (D-IN), Don Young (R-AK), and Rick Larsen (D-WA) introduced legislation ([H.R. 8532](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8532?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22congressId%3A116+AND+billStatus%3A%5C%22Introduced%5C%22%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=16)) to establish the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation.
* House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR), Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH), and Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) introduced the Beat China by Harnessing Important, National Airwaves for 5G Act ([H.R. 8545](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8545?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22congressId%3A116+AND+billStatus%3A%5C%22Introduced%5C%22%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=3)). According to a [press release](https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/press-release/republicans-lead-bicameral-bill-to-open-mid-band-spectrum-for-commercial-use/), the bill would allow the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to open more critical mid-band spectrum for non-federal, commercial wireless use by requiring the FCC to begin an auction of the 3.45-3.55 GHz band by December 2021.

**General Congress**

* The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [found](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.cbo.gov%2fpublication%2f56661&c=E,1,3mNkSszuLN7-fjTtDsgnNEwRGIFzoNaQyQToyBlswmKBYf_EbTRs5paTqz0uwVnTA4VnJ5U97I-MreOIC0D5zRlMA_XhU6w1LrPhqhPgQQomM8TSZjPWXp3TnAAJ&typo=1) that the federal budget deficit tripled during fiscal year 2020 due to government spending to combat COVID-19 and its economic impacts.
  + The budget gap increased to $3.1T from $984B a year.

**Administration**

* The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is inviting transit agencies to apply for $10M in funds, offered in response to agencies' requests, to research innovative solutions to mitigate spreading COVID-19 on transit and boost public confidence. However, applicants from jurisdictions that were recently [labelled as “anarchist”](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-identifies-new-york-city-portland-and-seattle-jurisdictions-permitting) by the Department of Justice will not be eligible to apply for the funding.
* Secretary of Defense Mark Esper outlined a plan to grow the Navy to 500 ships by 2045, which is meant to counter China’s military buildup and will be paid for by savings from Pentagon reform efforts. Among other things, the proposal calls for additional attack submarines, new light carriers, fewer nuclear super carriers, and more unmanned vessels.
* CBP [recorded](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.cbp.gov%2fnewsroom%2fstats%2ftrade&c=E,1,n21OVQ0iMIQ3DbeIJUtmXe03p-7jdzkho914UXEgh68aVwHZ9SMo9m4QScmed8Htj0JvDHnM5c62L3qzubK2wf0n2sVUFWYb0ygJYx5tZofmiw,,&typo=1) that the U.S. Government has collected over $64B in Section 301 tariffs on Chinese goods since July 2018. Additionally, CBP has collected over $7.4B in steel tariffs and $2.2B in aluminum tariffs since March 2018.
* The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released a [draft report](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.faa.gov%2faircraft%2fdraft_docs%2fmedia%2fafx%2fFSBR_B737_Rev_17_Draft.pdf&c=E,1,UYc8JM3juKSIQUW1m3Cjn1WXfRMwmGrABwRV1_gGjogI83Vdxnv9VDP_T8jLcGN5_fkHSkYhTWKNhDftEkL1TPJPGwusTmo39AEwXEPznPbWXPQ3iQ,,&typo=1) on new training procedures for the Boeing 737 MAX. The document is open to public comment through November 2 and adds new requirements for how pilots are trained on the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS). The draft report also proposes full flight simulator training.
* The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) revised its regulations on the minimum safety requirements for railroad tracks. This revision would allow continuous testing for rail inspections, which involves a data collection vehicle moving down the track without stopping to verify its findings and would remove an exception for inspecting high-density commuter lines.
* The Energy Information Administration (EIA) released a [short-term energy outlook](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.eia.gov%2foutlooks%2fsteo%2farchives%2foct20.pdf&c=E,1,94Tp2PBxZgyA_6gVIwZ9zagM-YgmpRUbrOdvHihqvhyFULzn2JotmkjHml_zBoSHQgtLoOzSfTuhYpkNKaYBxbs1oc2BXCcfBb0XQhFIb8BdLp0,&typo=1) estimating that natural gas production declined to 89.4B cubic feet per day in September. Additionally, natural gas inventories at the end of September reached a record high, which could continue as October is expected to break the highest record for any month with 3.8T cubic feet.
  + The EIA expects that reduced production and increased demand in the winter will lift natural gas spot prices to $3.38/MMBtu in January 2021.
* Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust Makan Delrahim said that the Department of Justice (DOJ) does not always have to seek court review for merger settlements. When parties solve potential concerns upfront, such as agreeing to sell-off overlapping businesses, the DOJ does not need to enter an official settlement that undergoes court review.
  + Antitrust experts said while Delrahim is technically correct, the DOJ could run into problems if prosecutors suggest merging companies restructure to avoid a court review or attempt to evade Congressionally mandated reviews of antitrust settlements.
* Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary David Bernhardt told DOI leadership this week that future drone purchases should be vetted against a list of drones approved by the Department of Defense and made in the U.S.
  + This move cleared both emergency and nonemergency use of drone models included on a [list](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.diu.mil%2fautonomy-blue-suas&c=E,1,LPaYBiTTBXvwN4W-geI28j6MLU_kkvO9XWKbEcY_HcJXsT0K6I4d8O7QLoujvxogvqYOOVho17eXUI0Ls3C5uoRivLGtwt9X6TCaiEofaQ,,&typo=1) compiled by the Defense Innovation Unit as safe for use by federal agencies. Bernhardt said that the selected U.S.-made drones on the list, manufactured by companies that include Altavian, Anafi, Skydio, Teal and Vantage Robotics, would "better ensure the cybersecurity and supply of American technology of drones procured for use and operation."
* The DOJ barred state and local law enforcement from using its grants to purchase certain foreign-made drones that may pose cybersecurity risks. This prohibition applies to entities that are “subject or vulnerable to extrajudicial direction from a foreign government.”
  + Applying agencies are now required to provide a written plan that details how they will handle cybersecurity, data protection, and civil liberties issues that may stem from drone use.
* The Commission on Presidential Debates announced their decision to cancel the October 15 debate after President Trump declined to do a virtual debate.
* The EPA's Affordable Clean Energy rule is facing challenges again in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. The most critical issue in the case will be how the judges determine the boundaries of the EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act.
* The Government Accountability Office (GAO) stated that more work needs to be done on the Administration’s "[National Strategy to Secure 5G](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/National-Strategy-5G-Final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2ieJ5R7LZV24OTQ2aWdmq3wem5RQ3Dg0NTfzrmVnEUFHlsrVCmRU3W46w).” The GAO said the report needs additional information on the 5G strategy’s costs and necessary resources and investments.
  + The Administration missed a September 23 deadline to submit an implementation plan for the 5G strategy according to the Secure 5G and Beyond Act ([S. 893](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/893?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22s893%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1)). The Department of Commerce said that they hope to finish the implementation plan by the end of the month.
* The Department of Defense announced an additional $600M in grants to test next-generation wireless applications at five military bases in Utah, Washington, Georgia, California, and Nevada. The testing will focus on 5G uses including augmented and virtual reality applications and how to develop systems that will let the military dynamically share its 3.1-3.45 GHz band airwaves with the commercial sector.
* Deputy U.S. Trade Representative C.J. Mahoney said that Europe can avoid new U.S. tariffs by making progress toward a digital services tax deal in ongoing talks at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Serious negotiations are not expected to take place before the election.
  + As a reminder, these tariffs are in response to the European Union’s digital services tax that some believe unfairly targets large American tech companies.
* The Department of Commerce [announced](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.commerce.gov%2fnews%2fpress-releases%2f2020%2f10%2fus-department-commerce-issues-affirmative-preliminary-antidumping-duty%3fsource%3demail&c=E,1,Xu-nQIHLu3Upg5T5nYD1ITVmvyctP5ktV79Ssks7qOF9ClTI1XxmJjFajZ5ADmAW3L7pGJSBVwSU0r9vT3g6N6Va_Z8xdhis9Qx6_YH01UHWVsuTQWp9TSaQ&typo=1) that it would impose tariffs on $2B worth of aluminum imports from 18 countries, saying they had sold the metal at less-than-fair pricing. Tariff levels vary by country and range from 353% to less than 30%.
  + These tariffs will apply to Bahrain, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Oman, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, and Turkey.

**Other News**

* The Supreme Court heard the copyright case between Google and Oracle on Wednesday. Google defended itself against Oracle's charge that it stole code to build its Android operating system.
* Sixty environmental and conservation groups sent DOI Secretary David Bernhardt a [list](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.nwf.org%2f-%2fmedia%2fDocuments%2fPDFs%2fPress-Releases%2f2020%2f10-06-20_Bernhardt_Letter_Bullock_vs_BLM&c=E,1,vtA6XKAhBEmiJnQ46l563_8E-dDvG_RjYOa8mbh5D-ZpplNBxr5mr8BwE6WPv0NENzjx9OnSVy0pKpUwyr6HCCWfXZo3G-jt2b1petPfa5MNMAg9vXAYz32OqLg,&typo=1) of actions that should be reversed due to the federal court decision that prohibited William Perry Pendley from exercising the authority of Director at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The list includes 30 resource management plans, the implementation of DOI’s royalty rate relief program, and decisions related to oil and gas leasing and development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
* The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget [estimated](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.crfb.org%2fpapers%2fcost-trump-and-biden-campaign-plans&c=E,1,FWjwiOREKbVm2hy-_QXu2gtikkH4QoZHL_hhQVYKHkqS453WFTYqcl7U0tzSXQB0GPNKk92N3D3BInI-RDxn5Lx7agFZxS_zhQyv1bPUuhFbtThUdiU3Q3seRg,,&typo=1) the cost of campaign plans pitched by President Trump and Joe Biden. It found that Trump’s proposals would increase the federal debt by nearly $5T over ten years, while Biden’s proposals would increase the debt by $5.6T over the same time.
* A survey by the National Federation of Independent Business found that a majority of small businesses are not interested in President Trump’s payroll tax deferral plan and many are not even aware that it exists.
* Fitch Ratings released a [report](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.fitchratings.com%2fresearch%2finfrastructure-project-finance%2fglobal-airport-traffic-tracker-07-10-2020&c=E,1,awBdGm0CB9zArUjvY0t3Y6wsj-Z3-ZRUJq2y0HI1dJrRWnn9uCRlcNn_A73SrPEYH2DZ7_JkKvkr2EGcAuejSaS62rgzs8I_X-nBoPdqpU7OpS2l5TyreYvCts4I9A,,&typo=1) stating that global traffic levels at airports may not fully recover until the end of 2024. The recovery will depend on relief efforts and travel restrictions adopted by governments and the balance of domestic, international, business, and leisure travel.
* The AFL-CIO urged the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to change its methodology for calculating the economic benefits of U.S. trade agreements, citing that past ITC projections of the economic impact of trade deals have not always matched reality.
* The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released a [study](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.iata.org%2fen%2fpressroom%2fpr%2f2020-09-08-012%2f&c=E,1,psh2LRWTz7lYAx8BXg2jHFQKiIh58_HBqArIHIgv0aUtFHKabXCnIknOtMzY1yXJXw5kpP85vsXR_oYU3wMOZakH2IiB4oLRULJSkFztOSi8nfH9Tg,,&typo=1) showing that 44 out of the 1.2B people who have flown worldwide in 2020 have credible cases of COVID-19 transmission on airplanes. The report found that this is largely due to surface sanitation and cabin air ventilation systems.
* Amtrak announced that it will furlough 2,400 more employees, in addition to the 2,000 that have already been furloughed, if Congress does not provide supplemental funding by the end of the year. Additionally, Amtrak may have to reduce corridor trains and defer multiple capital projects and procurement.
* The U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming ruled that the DOI “exceeded its statutory authority” with the Obama-era regulation to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas production on public lands.
  + The court did allow two minor portions of the rule to stand: language relating to the royalty-free use of production and an amendment conforming the regulatory text with the Mineral Leasing Act.

**Federal Register Notices**

* The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) amended regulations governing the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f08%2f2020-22347%2fstrengthening-the-h-1b-nonimmigrant-visa-classification-program&c=E,1,dOUPpvbiMGMYB0r0NXms2bSwAbb7w9Ikyfz_qt1J5EkJx6PKldYlqD3ZmWr-gE_y1MufjczvWrkiC2PUS6LsWhoMMrqETXv9SJRQGF8iAGGnO1Tt4A,,&typo=1).
* DHS announced a virtual meeting of the Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee that will take place on October 27 from 10:00am-12:00pm ET. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f08%2f2020-22240%2fdhs-data-privacy-and-integrity-advisory-committee&c=E,1,g846FuKI45Qfxa3ONM3CpwlTyZFX7Q6Md-uambOeCspE3-GS33fg_8MGHivpE22wlT1XVv_kmYlSCiqJx2GTFDoWo8e9F4tAMkdYvOJ9QeuENwlVZA,,&typo=1).
* The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) requested comments on the “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Joint Quarterly Narrative Performance Report.” Comments must be received by December 7. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f07%2f2020-22172%2fagency-information-collection-activities-comment-request-workforce-innovation-and-opportunity-act&c=E,1,rcN_YRi1gPsWhs0bsoJMgYsFRw5fc30lKEnWxDeVXjFSToOFKBH9mD2QISaHuYce8V2Dk1WxoNqLg8VSOoOOI5ehV-NGchTQoj4PUwnFDvI8GqM,&typo=1).
* The Department of Energy (DOE) requested public comments on the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy's (EERE) Medium- and Heavy-Duty Truck Research and Development Activities and SuperTruck Initiative. DOE is seeking information on safe, efficient, affordable solutions that reduce energy use, emissions, and total cost of ownership for medium and heavy-duty trucking. Comments must be submitted by November 9. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f09%2f2020-22421%2fnotice-of-request-for-information-rfi-on-office-of-energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energys-medium-&c=E,1,VW5mDmd2k8tzCFq-58BXh25qnpBAlXZXxDJohBd3PyJLP97HpCsupArZKoWRbFGF9WvbK4oLfUXOrBZtC_tiO4GtqIHjX9c6AJkrwSSFG8E2bCb8RxIW5_KRCQ,,&typo=1).
* The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) made a technical amendment to a previously granted exclusion from the Section 301 tariffs of 7.5% on goods from China with an annual trade value of approximately $300B. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f07%2f2020-22197%2fnotice-of-product-exclusion-amendment-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to-technology&c=E,1,HhuGaCiudbXfptcPd6dtfwRNH9YCocS7xwtPGJjtZ0xi1t0fHrSOPf1MGU7R0Dhyl24BkS850PMIQQSwTx6MKs6EBYMF_1BhD3n-NomOsijWVSL034Wcacw,&typo=1).
  + USTR made a technical amendment to 16 sets of previously granted exclusions from the Section 301 tariffs on Chinese goods with an annual trade value of $200B that expired on August 7. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f07%2f2020-22198%2fnotice-of-product-exclusion-amendment-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to-technology&c=E,1,Wv8Gvwdf8EMUvq262UL2QFpUv7z5nUbzVprp4npSvyQGdrND3S4-5t_aisjjtsnszo4qRsodpfJ4kwMp1FQh8uvp1mo8lbO9vYWWzf0fQDRmlZ9Fbh5qW0Zczbg,&typo=1).
  + USTR made two technical amendments to previously extended exclusions from the Section 301 tariffs on Chinese goods with an annual trade value of $200B. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f07%2f2020-22199%2fnotice-of-product-exclusion-extension-amendments-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to&c=E,1,ApCsEEJAWQbpFgx-cq4RYzDXxzjyZX_Jqd8rdSaE44_dyw9EnedkKSa4HTokTYRNBqj7gPtx0nLtbowI0-DLiUwVHLATwt92pPSAlddCyw,,&typo=1).
  + USTR made a technical amendment to a previously granted exclusion extension from the Section 301 tariffs of 7.5% on goods from China with an annual trade value of approximately $300B. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f07%2f2020-22200%2fnotice-of-product-exclusion-extension-amendment-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to&c=E,1,YN8OokoOkdy-jEa9qHm4dtDnz2lHvaAM1LCVoKJ5BpT9G2EQv6PD-ZFtSSJ2zpo2pxpkvhg8fDdTYE6sebnq1QX7uv6cArJH1xtMTboWkf7Obj1M&typo=1).
* The FAA extended the COVID-19-related limited waiver of the minimum slot usage requirement at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York LaGuardia Airport (LGA), and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) through March 27. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f07%2f2020-22291%2fcovid-19-related-relief-concerning-operations-at-chicago-ohare-international-airport-john-f-kennedy&c=E,1,o3QnULir2ITxifPqRzY1DL9F7lg2fxeBXm0aDm0W1XT0iV_Q6KI5Vf3APwNdOExrKdqZpIxF0x8RC0JT0Goh3E_q4yeHZiRCwrxNAp1oWxhVy06g4w,,&typo=1).
* The FAA requested public comments on a survey of Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) holders and ODA program applicants to document and assess FAA certification and oversight activities. Comments must be submitted by November 9. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f08%2f2020-22274%2fagency-information-collection-activities-requests-for-comments-clearance-of-a-new-approval-of&c=E,1,l3La-6WcFdXOcIReV8W5rGPRileXlIx9PrmoqA2njdMCxsFNfMIDc5IyPo-CmsZd5t2XvsqMTD30BWc_Tt1rHKrstWVIYZ6knHkMTu0xr2JhHZtdnqVzYwmO&typo=1).
* The FAA also requested public comments on survey responses from U.S. operator employees who lead departments responsible for Operations and Standards, Training, and Safety to understand how industry has addressed recommendations from SAFO 17007 and to inform future guidance on manual flight skill proficiency in future en-route and terminal environments. Comments must be submitted by December 7. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f08%2f2020-22352%2fagency-information-collection-activities-requests-for-comments-clearance-of-a-new-approval-of&c=E,1,3r54q05arCkga4t-6PwL3-LMt5OQVv18pOtzsfeEIUPr_5chKrQiYILu8j3YNAHHwQZd8FxeDbkJ8krVnWlGCbcdi_zH4ivDxstBjpxBztYD&typo=1).
* The FAA superseded Airworthiness Directives (ADs) that applied to Boeing Model 787-8 and 787-9 airplanes and flight control module software. The new AD requires installing flight control electronics common block point 5 (CBP5) software and is effective November 13. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f09%2f2020-22236%2fairworthiness-directives-the-boeing-company-airplanes&c=E,1,1udKCfqBSoiZoVvOtx5t4fHoMDVWXSdYpSFeX1mERDcbzpw7nyFM8yEU73Lc_5i8M5h8BnooWxTfprudvFXMOWyj3n9ShBkyjItkkMD4FlXB8g,,&typo=1).
* The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) submitted an information collection to OMB to help ensure that motor carriers of passengers and property maintain appropriate levels of financial responsibility to operate on public highways. Comments are due by December 7. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f08%2f2020-22312%2fagency-information-collection-activities-renewal-of-a-currently-approved-information-collection&c=E,1,LSGEQCniqTT4jfVQvBdTjLkWDvUA3sydYRgu2OABG0pGLOF1wmKw883Xkeo1exce_YA4iKfeU9DtNvL5L2GtUkge8GMNJe6aJwfZrsT6UCDB04PDGeU,&typo=1).
* The FMCSA proposed to expand eligibility for a pilot program to allow individuals aged 18, 19, and 20 to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce if they have received heavy-vehicle driver training in certain Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) while in military service. Comments must be received by November 9. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f09%2f2020-22401%2fcommercial-drivers-licenses-expansion-of-military-occupational-specialties-in-the-pilot-program-to&c=E,1,yHEVR_MU-U86BoEgKQiaFt3T2XS1g9PKvQzgM0-ZoSHIoymQ4ENfPXQUxoqwX8QfV6Sy5m-86coRTir7f4eNZga380lOJ0HeQXqtYQJCq880Gv7dMzUbtwzrhEY,&typo=1).
* The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a funding opportunity to support research demonstration grants to public transit agencies to develop, deploy, and demonstrate innovative solutions that improve the operational efficiency of transit agencies and enhance the mobility of transit users affected by COVID-19. Applications must be submitted by November 2. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f08%2f2020-22316%2fcompetitive-funding-opportunity-public-transportation-covid-19-research-demonstration-grant-program&c=E,1,MC8GfU5FrCKdXtLcukjRS5UUMoljgkJ6jpFbXo0LjsFGeQdLjjvErH1fQocWT2Q61RlficFTUyls9Kda54zlXY9dJaOVeMD8SklsGKZW56a6hwDmfZsTrUdkC5-M&typo=1).
* The National Park Service (NPS) announced a meeting of the National Park System Advisory Board that will be held on December 5 from 11:00am-5:00pm ET. The agenda may include the review of proposed actions regarding the National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program and National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f08%2f2020-22116%2fnotice-of-the-december-10-2020-teleconference-meeting-of-the-national-park-system-advisory-board&c=E,1,Bk32tlLvbMRWWbY59M2H-Ycf2Z6qR4WW0RoLameXzh6p-5fUXH1wOczqiomueW4owkooKEoLZLTlTVDt3jdPThjsDNMGUCcvxtI4OaNV5LxW&typo=1).
* The EPA requested public comments on an ongoing program to evaluate the emissions performance of light-duty motor vehicles. Comments must be received by December 8. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f09%2f2020-22456%2fproposed-information-collection-request-comment-request-epas-light-duty-in-use-vehicle-testing&c=E,1,5w4tVv6crjHflu4XWU_lmhQ8k8hgkUD_NYATaOpUhgO1B6wfsVdDg4rZ8cwcvYaFcn4r2rLJT8DiI0QFFXHoDgXEv_Ar9uZgh_Jlt5LMgTALEOhi-xr1C-5a5lZN7A,,&typo=1).
* The FCC revised certain final regulations to correct a reference error. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f09%2f2020-19686%2faccelerating-wireline-and-wireless-broadband-deployment-by-removing-barriers-to-infrastructure&c=E,1,CZfRKUBjp--4spgIt5IqcGmK5fkdPsmMiseRUoqWGvdkiYEemFK_bBngDzyYHKWxcqmdtg-KKEqbXbtZazNe4o1DLGGjbagLEFlg6F708YT4&typo=1).
* The FCC adopted changes to its rules to prepare the 3.45-3.55 GHz band for commercial wireless services by removing the secondary, non-federal allocations in the 3.3-3.55 GHz band for radiolocation services and the amateur radio service. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f09%2f2020-22528%2ffacilitating-shared-use-in-the-3100-3550-mhz-band&c=E,1,J-dbkFMnk2TAjzbhlx10S1RVoDD6ISsrgeRYTNEg8fqcyVzWH5HiFIP_sOpTtBS26USz-JGgJPH3VnlFMXXc_lkzqh85eJQWUA0HCXRvEEX2d6H_03vK3SHn2I9YZw,,&typo=1).
* The FCC requested comments on the implementation of section 8 of the Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act (TRACED Act) and existing exemptions for calls made to residential telephone lines. Comments are due by October 26. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f09%2f2020-22331%2fexemptions-implemented-under-the-telephone-consumer-protection-act-of-1991&c=E,1,qTxEk1rYMgmVe4K0kZ37Mi74ss4SCJZmCXU9HmD_HHwVz_lphEsEjXTZecNjbxXTeiitrQqNeOhic5hiZLhTO76_zRQMShhQ4YBUXkZIfQ,,&typo=1).
* The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau announced a temporary freeze on the acceptance and processing of certain applications related to private land mobile radio services in the 4.9 GHz band. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f10%2f08%2f2020-22217%2fpublic-safety-and-homeland-security-bureau-and-wireless-telecommunications-bureau-announce-temporary&c=E,1,L4tB9SHsOHGF-p8e0xMb36i_SmpKhELl-A0_yLrEtdLcsOz733U4Jav6hLbSnZSqIjbxTk-6F_0A4cBnx0hR9Ov8IvHsMMLyMZuIR3pz0-WbX6s6UJY,&typo=1).