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**July 2019**

<b>Congress.gov</b>		
<b>Bills Presented to the President in June</b>		
<b>H.R. 3151 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress) Taxpayer First Act</b> <i>(Presented June 13, 2019)</i> <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3151/text">https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3151/text</a>		This bill revises requirements for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding its organizational structure, customer service, enforcement procedures, cybersecurity and identity protection, management of information technology, and use of electronic systems.
<b>S. 1790 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress) National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020</b> <i>(Presented on June 19, 2019)</i> <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1790/text">https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1790/text</a>		To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.
<b>S. 1379 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress) Pandemic and All Hazard Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019</b> <i>(Became law on June 24, 2019)</i> <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1379/text">https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1379/text</a>		To reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, and for other purposes.
<b>H.R. 299 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress) Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019</b> <i>(Presented on June 19, 2019)</i> <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/299/text">https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/299/text</a>		A veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to an herbicide agent unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed to any such agent during that service. The veteran or survivor submits a claim for disability compensation on or after January 1, 2020, for the same condition covered by the prior claim under clause (i), and the claim is approved pursuant to this section.
<b>Most Viewed Bills on Congress.gov</b>		
<b>H.R. 40 (116<sup>th</sup> &amp; 115<sup>th</sup> Congresses) also S. 1083 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act</b> <i>(Introduced on January 3, 2019)</i> <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/40/text">https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/40/text</a>		This bill establishes the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans. The commission shall examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies. Among other requirements, the commission shall identify (1) the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African-Americans and society.

<p><b>H.R. 420 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress) Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act</b>  <i>(Introduced January 19, 2019)</i>  <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/420/text">https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/420/text</a></p>	<p>Calls for the legalization and regulation of marijuana products.</p>
<p><b>H.R 1327 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress) Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund Act</b>  <i>(Introduced February 25, 2019)</i>  <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1327/text">https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1327/text</a></p>	<p>To extend authorization for the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through Fiscal Year 2090.</p>

<h2>Supreme Court</h2>	
	
<p>There has been a flurry of activity in the Court this past month, partly because it is in recess from the end of June until September. Here below are some highlights of some of its activities. You can access a more transcripts at this website:</p>	
<p><b>Census Question on Citizenship</b>  <b>Department of Commerce vs. New York</b>  <a href="https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-966_bq7c.pdf">https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-966_bq7c.pdf</a></p>	<p>Asking a question about citizenship on the 2020 Census could very much affect the results. Judgment on this matter is blocked for now; Justice Roberts explained that the question didn't pass muster. It will be taken up again in the Fall.</p>
<p><b>“Scandalous” Speech Protected</b>  <b>Iancu vs. Brunetti</b>  <i>(Decided June 24, 2019)</i>  <a href="https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-302_e29g.pdf">https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-302_e29g.pdf</a></p>	<p>Fashion designer Erik Brunetti sued the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for denying a trademark for his street wear line “FUCTION”, putatively short for Friends U Can't Trust. The government claimed the trademark violated the 1946 Lanham Act because it was “vulgar”: highly offensive and carried “decidedly negative sexual connotations”. The government is right as a matter of taste, but collides with the Court's First Amendment doctrine. Justice Alito noted the ruling is not based on moral relativisms, since all judgments on matters of right and wrong are subjective, and not grounded in any objective truth. (KAGAN, J., delivered the opinion of the Court, in which THOMAS, GINSBURG, ALITO, GORSUCH and KAVANAUGH, JJ., joined. ALITO, J., filed a concurring opinion. ROBERTS, C. J., and BREYER, J., filed opinions concurring in part and dissenting in part. SOTOMAYOR, J., filed an opinion concurring in part and dissenting in part, in which BREYER, J., joined.)</p>
<p><b>Limits on Political Gerrymandering</b>  <b>Rucho et al vs. Common Cause et al</b>  <i>(Decided June 27, 2019)</i>  <a href="https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-422_9ol1.pdf">https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-422_9ol1.pdf</a></p>	<p>The Supreme Court declines to set limits on political gerrymandering. The High court says such cases present political questions that courts can't decide. (5-4 decision)</p>

**Double Jeopardy****United States vs. Haymond***(Decided July 26, 2019)*[https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/17-1672\\_5hek.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/17-1672_5hek.pdf)

Andre Haymond was convicted of possessing child pornography, a crime that carries a prison term from zero to ten years. After serving a prison sentence of 38 months and while on supervised leave, Mister Haymond was again found with what appeared to be child pornography. “In reply, the government and the dissent offer many and sometimes competing arguments, but the Court found none of them persuasive as to sentencing Mister Haymond again. In a 4-3 decision, it was decided that the prosecution was in violation of 5th and 6th Amendment rights.

**New Electronic Titles from the Federal  
 Depository Library Program**

**The Communist’s Party Crackdown on Religion in  
 China**
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-115hrg33238/pdf/CHRG-115hrg33238.pdf>

A powerful exposure of the Chinese Communist Party’s methods of “re-educating” all unofficial religious communities in China. (58 pp.)

**Emerging Technologies to Support and Aging  
 Population**
<https://permanent.access.gpo.gov/gpo120909/Emerging-Tech-to-Support-Aging-2019.pdf>

The number of Americans aged 65 and older is growing rapidly – increasing by 40% between 2000 and 2016 to approximately 50 million people, over 15% of the total population and is expected to grow to nearly a quarter of the population by 2060. The overreaching goals of Government R&D is to enhance functional independence and continued safely, well-being and health of older Americans while reducing economic stress on the Nation’s healthcare. This report discusses six primary capabilities identified as being critical to individuals who wish to maintain their independence and dignity as they age. Some of the technologies include sensors, apps, and even robots. Adaption of these technologies also includes cost and convenience for older adults, since they often live on fixed incomes. (40 pp.)

**Geo Vision: Harnessing the Heat Beneath Our Feet**
<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/06/f63/GeoVision-full-report-opt.pdf>

Energy is the heartbeat of America. It touches nearly everything we do every day. The term “geothermal” means “Earth heat” or heat of the Earth. Geothermal energy is a renewable source. This heat is continually replenished by the decay of naturally occurring radioactive elements in the Earth’s interior and will remain available for billions of years, ensuring an essentially inexhaustible supply of energy. Geothermal resources are unique compared to other renewable energy resources for several key reasons. First, some level of penetration of the Earth’s surface – usually drilling wells- is required to characterize access and efficiently extract geothermal resources. As such, geothermal energy has an inherent upfront resource cost and risk that other renewable resources do not. The risks and challenges encountered while drilling deep, high temperature geothermal wells are broadly similar to those in the oil and gas industries. These concepts and challenges are discussed in more

detail in this publication. In sum, the “heat beneath our feet” is an always-on source of secure, reliable, and flexible domestic energy that can be utilized across industrial, commercial, and residential sectors. (218 pp.)