

**Sylvie VACHERET**  
 Spécialiste Economie des Etats-Unis  
 Tel: 06 72 67 41 93  
 E-Mail: vacheret.eco@orange.fr

**US ECO/Vacheret**

**A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON THE WEB**

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## GENERAL INTEREST

*Richard V. Reeves*

### **Capitalism Is Failing. People Want A Job with a Decent Wage – Why Is That So Hard?**

Brookings - Op-Ed - April 29, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/capitalism-is-failing-people-want-a-job-with-a-decent-wage-why-is-that-so-hard>

“There are two competing explanations for what happened to tear the connective tissue between growth and wages: The Productivity Story and the Power Story... The Power Story is that wages do not reflect the productivity of the worker, but their power. Lower wages are a reflection of growing powerlessness, the result of four intersecting trends.”

*Philippe Aghion, Antonin Bergeaud, Timo Boppart, Peter J. Klenow, and Huiyu Li*

### **A Theory of Falling Growth and Rising Rents**

FRB San Francisco – Working Paper - March 2019 – 43 pages

<https://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/files/wp2019-11.pdf>

“Growth has fallen in the U.S., while firm concentration and profits have risen. Meanwhile, labor’s share of national income is down, mostly due to the rising market share of low labor share firms. We propose a theory for these trends in which the driving force is falling firm-level costs of spanning multiple markets, perhaps due to accelerating ICT advances. In response, the most efficient firms spread into new markets, thereby generating a temporary burst of growth. Because their efficiency is difficult to imitate, less efficient firms find their markets more difficult to enter profitably and innovate less. Even the most efficient firms do less innovation eventually because they are more likely to compete with each other if they try to expand further.”

### **The Wealth of Relations - Expanding Opportunity by Strengthening Families, Communities, and Civil Society**

Joint Economic Committee – Majority Website – Analysis - April 30, 2019

<https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republicans/analysis?ID=5A31D0C5-CE7C-45D9-8654-0A2358FCC33F>

“For two years, the Social Capital Project within the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) has documented trends in associational life—what we do together—and its distribution across the country. With this evidentiary base established, the Project, now situated in the JEC Chairman’s Office, turns to the development of a policy agenda rooted in social capital. Specifically, the focus of the Project will be to craft an agenda to expand opportunity by strengthening families, communities, and civil society.

The following sections of this paper offer a justification for our focus on opportunity and on social capital as a means to opportunity. Subsequently, we shift to discussing how public policy might affect the value and distribution of social capital. We introduce five policy goals around which the Social Capital Project’s research will be organized. The conclusion previews how we will do so.”

### **Expanding Opportunity by Strengthening Families, Communities, and Civil Society**

Joint Economic Committee – Hearing - April 30, 2019

<https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-calendar>

The Joint Economic Committee has recently undertaken the work of exploring the connection between opportunity and social capital. And it has found that opportunity is largely dependent on social capital, available to us through the relationships we have with our families, friends, neighbors, fellow congregants, and coworkers. These relationships are crucial for both our economic opportunities and our opportunity for producing and sustaining a vibrant, healthy, and meaningful community life. And so the goal of the JEC is now to craft policies rooted in social capital –policies that will expand opportunity for all Americans by strengthening families, communities, and civil society.”

## **INCOMES - INEQUALITY - IMMIGRATION**

*Jaison R. Abel and Richard Deitz*

### **Why Are Some Places So Much More Unequal Than Others?**

FRB New York – Economic Policy Review - Forthcoming 2019 – 18 pages

[https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/epr/2019/epr\\_2019\\_wage-inequality\\_abel-deitz.pdf](https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/epr/2019/epr_2019_wage-inequality_abel-deitz.pdf)

“This study examines the magnitude and sources of regional wage inequality in the United States. The authors find that, as in the nation as a whole, wage inequality has increased in nearly every metropolitan area since the early 1980s, though there is significant variation among places in both the degree of wage inequality and the pace at which it has risen. The most unequal places tend to be large urban areas that have benefited from strong demand for skill and agglomeration economies, with these factors leading to particularly rapid wage growth for high-skilled workers. The least unequal places tend to have seen weak demand for labor, largely as a consequence of technological change and globalization, and this weakness has led to lackluster wage growth across the entire wage distribution— particularly for middle- and lower-skilled workers.”

### **Losing Our Minds: Brain Drain across the United States**

Joint Economic Committee – Majority Website – Analysis - April 24, 2019

<https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republicans/analysis?ID=581865E8-F994-44C1-AD45-48644F31E624>

“Over the past 50 years, the United States has experienced major shifts in geographic mobility patterns among its highly-educated citizens. Some states today are keeping and receiving a greater share of these adults than they used to, while many others are both hemorrhaging their homegrown talent and failing to attract out-of-staters who are highly educated. This phenomenon has far-reaching implications for our collective social and political life, extending beyond the economic problems for states that lose highly-educated adults. This report describes what this so-called “brain drain” looks like across the 50 U.S. states.”

## FISCAL AND TAX POLICIES - DEBT

*Jason Furman and Lawrence H. Summers*

### **Further Thinking on the Costs and Benefits of Deficits**

Peterson Institute - Realtime Economic Issues Watch

<https://piie.com/blogs/realtime-economic-issues-watch/further-thinking-costs-and-benefits-deficits>

“Furman and Summers present an updated set of perspectives on their commentary about deficits and debts, arguing that it may be premature to close fiscal gaps now by legislating cuts in expenditures on Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlement programs.”

*William G. Gale*

### **Fiscal Therapy: 12 Framing Facts and What They Mean**

Brookings – Report - April 3, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/fiscal-therapy-12-framing-facts-and-what-they-mean>

“Trouble looms beneath the surface of the American economy, in the form of rising government debt and a polarized fiscal policy debate. William Gale examines these concerns with 12 facts that inspire the analysis and proposals in his new book, "Fiscal Therapy: Curing America’s Debt Addiction and Investing in the Future."

*Christian E. Weller, Sara Estep, and Galen Hendricks*

### **Budgeting the Future**

Center for American Progress – Report - April 2, 2019 – 35 pages

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2019/03/29064822/BudgetingTheFuture-report2.pdf>

“The U.S. economy finds itself at a crossroads of overlapping challenges. Long-term productivity and economic growth are low, while income and wealth inequality are high. Meanwhile, the country faces a series of challenges: from collapsing economic security for middle- and working-class Americans to climate change and more.<sup>1</sup> Addressing these challenges will undoubtedly require the deployment of significant federal resources since the private sector has failed to do so. The good news is that the economic evidence suggests there is indeed room for the government to address the country’s current challenges. And the economic research shows ways this can be accomplished by using spending and tax policy more effectively than how it has been used in the past.”

*William G. Gale and Aaron Krupkin*

### **How Big Is the Problem of Tax Evasion?**

Brookings - Up Front - April 9, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2019/04/09/how-big-is-the-problem-of-tax-evasion>

“Tax evasion – the act of not paying taxes that are owed – is illegal and is an underappreciated problem in the United States. About one out of every six dollars owed in federal taxes is not paid. The amount of unpaid taxes every year is plausibly about three-quarters the size of the entire annual federal budget deficit. The rate of income misreporting is significantly higher for income from sole proprietorships and farms, and it is likely higher for high-income households than lower-income households.”

*Chuck Marr, Brendan Duke, Yixuan Huang, Jennifer Beltrán, Vincent Palacios, and Arloc Sherman*

### **Working Families Tax Relief Act Would Raise Incomes of 46 Million Households, Reduce Child Poverty**

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities – Report - April 10, 2019 – 21 pages

<https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/4-10-19tax.pdf>

“Senators Sherrod Brown, Michael Bennet, Richard Durbin, and Ron Wyden introduced legislation today that would substantially expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Based on an analysis of Census data, the proposal, known as the Working Families Tax Relief Act, would improve the economic well-being of 46 million low-and moderate-income households with 114million people.”

**Capital Gains Tax Options: Behavioral Responses and Revenues**

Congressional Research Service – Report – Updated April 30, 2019 – 25 pages

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41364.pdf>

“Simulations indicate that an increase in capital gains tax rates of five percentage points would raise slightly more than\$40 billion on a static basis for 2019, about \$30 billion using the 0.25 elasticity and \$18 billion using the 0.5 elasticity. The JCT estimates would likely be around \$10 billion, reflecting a 0.68elasticity. Taxing gains on an accrual basis would eliminate this response in the long run and gain additional revenues on currently unrealized gains.”

*Robert D. Atkinson*

**The Case Against Taxing Robots**

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation - Report – April 2019 – 30 pages

<https://www.itif.org/printpdf/8399>

“There are increasing calls for policymakers to tax robots and other capital goods based on the faulty premise that it’s necessary to raise adequate government revenue, restore labor income, and remove “distortions” in the tax code. But these are illusory concerns, and acquiescing to the pressure would slow productivity and wage growth. An effective growth and competitiveness policy would instead lower after-tax prices for equipment, machinery, and software.”

*Gary Clyde Hufbauer*

**Do Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Corporate Income Taxes?**

Peterson Institute - Trade & Investment Policy Watch – April 8, 2019

<https://piie.com/blogs/trade-investment-policy-watch/do-multinationals-pay-their-fair-share-corporate-income-taxes>

“A new study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommends steps to ensure that multinational corporations pay their fair share of corporate taxes. Hufbauer finds that some of the Fund’s policy recommendations are constructive but some are ill-advised. Its two euthanasia methods deserve the most praise: a minimum tax approach and turning the corporate income tax into a destination-based cash flow tax.”

*Gary Clyde Hufbauer*

**France Threatens a Digital Tax: Will the US Retaliate?**

Peterson Institute – Blog – April 15, 2019

<https://piie.com/blogs/trade-investment-policy-watch/france-threatens-digital-tax-will-us-retaliate>

“France’s new digital tax targets US tech giants and contravenes established principles for taxing multinational corporations that operate in two or more tax jurisdictions. Washington should respond vigorously now; digital taxes will otherwise almost certainly proliferate while the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development takes its time to debate changes in international tax rules.”

## MONETARY POLICY

*Adam Shapiro and Daniel J. Wilson*

### **The Evolution of the FOMC's Explicit Inflation Target**

FRB San Francisco - Economic Letter - April 15, 2019 – 5 pages

<https://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/files/el2019-12.pdf>

“Analyzing the narrative of historical Federal Open Market Committee meeting transcripts provides insights about how inflation target preferences of participants have evolved over time. From around 2000 until the Great Recession, there was general consensus among participants that their inflation target should be about 1½%, significantly below both average inflation over the period and survey measures of longer-run inflation expectations. By the end of the recession in 2009, however, the consensus had shifted up to 2%, which became the official target announced to the public in January 2012.”

*Pascal Paul*

### **Does the Fed Know More about the Economy?**

FRB San Francisco - Economic Letter - April 8, 2019 – 4 pages

<https://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/files/el2019-11.pdf>

“In assessing the current or near-term state of the economy, forecasts from Federal Reserve staff seem to provide little additional information to improve commercial forecasts. However, Fed forecasts for economic growth a year or more in the future substantially enhance the accuracy of private-sector forecasts. The Fed’s policy announcements often reveal some of this forecast information (accordingly, when the Fed surprises financial markets with indications of higher future interest rates, private forecasters tend to revise up their projections of future output growth.”

*Larry D. Wall*

### **Fractional Reserve Cryptocurrency Banks**

FRB Atlanta - Notes from the Vault - April 2019

<https://www.frbatlanta.org/cenfis/publications/notesfromthevault/04-fractional-reserve-cryptocurrency-banks-2019-04-25.aspx>

“Eliminating the need for banks is one of the motivations behind the creation of many cryptocurrencies, including bitcoin. However, should a cryptocurrency become an important part of the financial system, banks are likely to arise for some of the same reasons they exist in the current financial system. These cryptocurrency banks are likely to face the same risks as existing banks, but central banks and governments are likely to be in a weaker position to mitigate those risks.”

### **Virtual Currencies and Money Laundering: Legal Background, Enforcement Actions, and Legislative Proposals**

Congressional Research Service – Report – April 3, 2019 – 17 pages

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45664.pdf>

“Recently, money launderers have increasingly turned to a new technology to conceal the origins of illegally obtained proceeds: virtual currency... While virtual currency enthusiasts tout their technological promise, a number of commentators have contended that the anonymity offered by these new financial instruments makes them an attractive vehicle for money laundering. Law enforcement officials, regulators, and courts have accordingly grappled with how virtual currencies fit into a federal anti-money laundering (AML) regime designed principally for traditional financial institutions.”

*Friederike Niepmann and Tim Schmidt-Eisenlohr*

**Institutional Investors, the Dollar, and U.S. Credit**

Federal Reserve Board – International Finance Discussion Paper – April 2019 - 69 pages

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/ifdp/files/ifdp1246.pdf>

“Institutional investors, who are more sensitive to global developments than traditional banks, have become the main suppliers of funding for U.S. corporate loans. The authors find that this shift has resulted in a new channel through which the value of the U.S. dollar affects the U.S. economy: When the dollar appreciates, institutional investors reduce demand for loans on the secondary market, leading U.S. banks to lend less to corporations. Using loan-level data and survey data on lending practices, the authors document that an increase in the broad dollar index of 2.5 points reduces U.S. banks' corporate loan originations by 10%, with stronger effects for riskier loans. The authors conclude that more work is needed to fully understand the behavior of institutional investors since these entities are largely unregulated and play such a large role in the supply of credit to U.S. firms.”

**FINANCE**

**Guidance, Supervisory Expectations, and the Rule of Law: How do the Banking Agencies Regulate and Supervise Institutions?**

Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs – Hearing - April 30, 2019

<https://www.banking.senate.gov/hearings/guidance-supervisory-expectations-and-the-rule-of-law-how-do-the-banking-agencies-regulate-and-supervise-institutions>

The witnesses are: Mr. Greg Baer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bank Policy Institute; Ms. Margaret Tahyar, Partner, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP; and Ms. Patricia McCoy, Professor of Law, Boston College Law School

**Holding Megabanks Accountable: A Review of Global Systemically Important Banks 10 years after the Financial Crisis**

House Committee on Financial Services – Hearing – April 10, 2019

<https://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402507>

The Committee held a hearing on February 11, 2009 with the Chief Executive Officers of the largest U.S. banks to examine what went wrong. That hearing as well as others held subsequently served to inform Congress about the broken state of the financial system and the need for reforms, which were later included in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. In the decade since that 2009 hearing, progress has been made in strengthening the resiliency of the financial system and in protecting consumers. However, a number of questions remain regarding whether America is being well-served by the largest and most systemically important banks, and whether there is appropriate accountability. This hearing will examine seven of the eight U.S.-based global systemically important banks.”

*Simon Kwan*

**Banks' Real Estate Exposure and Resilience**

FRB San Francisco - Economic Letter - April 1, 2019 – 5 pages

<https://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/files/el2019-10.pdf>

“Real estate has hit record high prices and elevated valuations in some markets. Do bank lenders have sufficient capital to withstand a large price drop? While their portfolios have a similar concentration in real estate as they did before the global financial crisis, both underwriting standards and capitalization have improved significantly since then. Estimates using the Federal Reserve’s stress test scenarios

suggest that, although a few small banks would be undercapitalized, the banking sector overall appears resilient enough to weather a steep decline in real estate prices.”

*Larry D. Wall*

**Is Stricter Regulation of Incentive Compensation the Missing Piece?**

FRB Atlanta - Working Paper - March 2019 – 36 pages

<https://www.frbatlanta.org/-/media/documents/research/publications/wp/2019/06-is-stricter-regulation-of-incentive-compensation-the-missing-piece-2019-03-27.pdf>

“Although a number of steps have been taken to reduce the risk of financial stability, some significant weaknesses remain. This paper examines whether stricter regulation of incentive compensation is the missing piece needed to reduce risk to acceptable levels. Unfortunately, this review of the literatures on the relationship of risk to bank chief operating officer and bank employee compensation suggest both have some potential but that significant concerns remain in both cases. At this point, we cannot confidently say that compensation regulation is the missing piece.”

*Peter Conti-Brown*

**Can Fintech Increase Lending? How Courts Are Undermining Financial Inclusion**

Brookings – Report - April 16, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/can-fintech-increase-lending-how-courts-are-undermining-financial-inclusion>

“Some of the most important innovations in finance are aimed at making credit markets fairer and more efficient. Peter Conti-Brown explains how the U.S. court system is getting in the way.”

*Aaron Klein*

**Credit Denial in the Age of AI**

Brookings – Report - April 11, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/credit-denial-in-the-age-of-ai/>

“Banks have been deciding who is eligible for credit for centuries. But as Aaron Klein explains, digital technologies have the power to upend that monopoly and transform credit allocation.”

**Trends in Household Debt and Credit**

FRB New York - Staff report – March 2019 – 38 pages

[https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/staff\\_reports/sr882.pdf](https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/staff_reports/sr882.pdf)

“The authors examine trends in household debt before, during, and since the financial crisis and Great Recession, using data from the New York Fed Consumer Credit Panel. Their analysis shows that although total household debt has recovered to its pre-recession level in nominal terms, its composition and characteristics have changed dramatically along many dimensions.”

**The Application of Environmental, Social, and Governance Principles in Investing and the Role of Asset Managers, Proxy Advisors, and Other Intermediaries**

Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs – Hearing - April 2, 2019

<https://www.banking.senate.gov/hearings/the-application-of-environmental-social-and-governance-principles-in-investing-and-the-role-of-asset-managers-proxy-advisors-and-other-intermediaries>

Today, I look forward to hearing from our witnesses on the following questions: How are the retail investors being engaged within the proxy voting process and in setting the policies used by the asset

managers of the passive funds with which they invest? Are these shares being voted to drive productivity in our economy and increase investors' return on their hard-earned investments, or are intermediaries using other people's money unbeknownst to them in order to advance environmental, social and other political policies? What financial and other criteria are used in identifying social issues for engagement and measuring engagement success for end-investors?"

## HOUSING

### **Housing in America: Assessing the Infrastructure Needs of America's Housing Stock**

House Committee on Financial Services – Hearing – April 30, 2019

<https://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=403645>

“There are 1.1 million public housing units across the country that are home to 2.6 million residents.<sup>9</sup> The most recent study commissioned by HUD on the public housing capital backlog was published in 2010 and found that the national average estimate of capital needs was \$19,029 per unit, with a median of \$15,374 per unit... The “Housing is Infrastructure Act of 2019” bill is a discussion draft from Chairman Waters that would authorize funding for several housing infrastructure projects, including in public housing.”

*Lynn M. Fisher and Scott C. Ganz*

### **Will Homebuilding Finally Evolve? Lessons from the American Experience with Factory-Built Housing**

American Enterprise Institute – Economic Perspectives - April 2019 – 14 pages

<https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Will-Homebuilding-Finally-Evolve.pdf>

“In this report, we examine the history of attempts to disrupt site-built single-family housing in the US to learn about the potential for the homebuilding industry to increase housing affordability through innovation. We argue that greater reliance on mass production is unlikely to be a source of significant cost savings for the kinds of homes that most Americans live in today. We highlight the potential for factory-built housing to provide more significant cost savings if smaller-size and reasonable but lower-quality construction is permitted, as is the case with manufactured housing.”

*Richard Peach and Casey McQuillan*

### **Is the Recent Tax Reform Playing a Role in the Decline of Home Sales?**

FRB New York - Liberty Street Economics - April 15, 2019

<https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2019/04/is-the-recent-tax-reform-playing-a-role-in-the-decline-of-home-sales.html>

“The average interest rate on thirty-year fixed-rate mortgages rose from 3.9 percent to 4.6 percent, from the fourth quarter of 2017 through the third quarter of 2018. During the same period, there was a broad-based slowdown in housing market activity. Our researchers find evidence that suggests changes in federal tax laws enacted in December of 2017 also contributed to the slowing of housing market activity through much of 2018.”

*Donghoon Lee and Joseph Tracy*

### **The Sustainability of First-Time Homeownership**

FRB New York - Liberty Street Economics - April 12, 2019

<https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2019/04/the-sustainability-of-first-time-homeownership.html>

“Our bloggers close their series on first-time homebuyers by examining the sustainability of homeownership for this group. They introduce a sustainability scorecard as an illustration of how to evaluate the effectiveness of different mortgage programs intended to promote sustainable homeownership for first-time buyers. This scorecard shows that the FHA/VA programs, on average, produce lower sustainability rates even when differences in borrower characteristics are taken into account.”

## OTHER ECONOMIC POLICIES

*Tom Wheeler*

### **Should Big Technology Companies Break Up or Break Open?**

Brookings – TechTank - April 11, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2019/04/11/should-big-technology-companies-break-up-or-break-open>

“Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) has proposed using antitrust laws to break up super-sized digital companies. But instead of physically breaking up big tech firms, former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler suggests hitting them where it really hurts: their data.”

*Stephen Ezell and Nigel Cory*

### **The Way Forward for Intellectual Property Internationally**

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation – Report – April 2019 – 63 pages

<https://itif.org/printpdf/8463>

Intellectual property rights have come under attack in recent years from a loose coalition of academics, nongovernmental organizations, multilateral groups, and others whose opposition threatens to undermine much-needed innovations for advanced and developing economies alike. Countries that honor and protect IP rights must initiate a robust, coordinated effort to push back against opponents, make the case that IP is central to global progress, and strengthen the international framework of IP rules, norms, and cooperation.

## LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **One Region. Many Economies.**

FRB Atlanta – Annual Report 2018 – March 27, 2019 -

<https://www.frbatlanta.org/economy-matters/annual-report/2018.aspx>

“Comprehensive data such as employment and gross domestic product (GDP) growth describe a strong U.S. economy. In fact, 2018 was the nation's best year for economic expansion since the Great Recession. By many measures, the Southeast economy has been equally robust. In fact, led by Florida and Georgia, the six states combined surpassed the national pace of job growth in 2018. Yet many people, like those in Thomasville Heights, do not live the national or regional norms, points out Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta president Raphael Bostic... Depending on where you are, people are having very different experiences in terms of prosperity, in terms of hope, and in terms of access to opportunity.”

*Taylor Girardi-Schachter*

### **Top 10 States for Tech-Driven Manufacturing**

Global Trade – Article - April 20th, 2019

<http://www.globaltrademag.com/global-trade-daily/top-10-states-for-tech-driven-manufacturing/>

“There are few phrases that give workers pause like “tech-driven manufacturing.” After all, with wild doomsday scenarios like robots taking all the jobs, it’s easy to see this emerging field as a bad thing. But tech-driven manufacturing is anything but bad—it’s actually quite positive—and not just for workers, but for businesses and consumers, too.”

*Jesus Cañas and Stephanie Gullo*

**Globally Competitive Texas Exports Sensitive to U.S. Trade Policy**

FRB Dallas – Economics - April 11, 2019

<https://www.dallasfed.org/research/economics/2019/0411>

“Texas, the nation’s largest exporting state, enjoys a strong position in world trade. The state continues to see exports climb, and it exhibits a manufacturing edge in energy-related products and intermediate goods based on an index of comparative advantage.”

**BUSINESS**

**Putting Investors First: Reviewing Proposals to Hold Executives Accountable**

Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs – Hearing - April 30, 2019

<https://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402504>

This hearing will examine six legislative proposals that are designed to hold public company executives accountable to both investors and the general public.”

**Small Business Administration (SBA) Funding: Overview and Recent Trends**

Congressional Research Service – Report – Updated April 3, 2019 – 51 pages

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43846.pdf>

“This report examines the Small Business Administration’s (SBA’s) appropriations (new budget authority, minus rescissions and sequestration) over time, focusing on developments and trends since FY2000.”

**DATA ISSUES**

*Mark MacCarthy*

**How to Address New Privacy Issues Raised by Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**

Brookings – TechTank - April 1, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2019/04/01/how-to-address-new-privacy-issues-raised-by-artificial-intelligence-and-machine-learning>

“AI and machine learning are rapidly advancing—and America's privacy laws aren't keeping up. Mark MacCarthy explains the considerations that should go into policymaking around the disclosure, access, and use of sensitive, personal information.”

*Nigel Cory*

**The False Appeal of Data Nationalism: Why the Value of Data Comes from How It’s Used, Not Where It’s Stored**

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation – Briefing – April 2019 – 16 pages

<https://itif.org/printpdf/8402>

Data innovation has become increasingly important to economic growth, competitiveness, scientific discovery, and social progress. But as policymakers around the world grapple with how to leverage digital technologies to drive development, many are being seduced by the misguided and costly fallacy that countries can best serve their economic interests by forcing firms to store data locally instead of focusing on the fundamentals of ICT adoption, education, digital infrastructure, and data governance.

*Claudia Biancotti and Paolo Ciocca*

**Opening Internet Monopolies to Competition with Data Sharing Mandates**

Peterson Institute – Policy Brief – April 2019 – 11 pages

<https://piie.com/system/files/documents/pb19-3.pdf>

“A small number of gigantic technology companies have assembled detailed datasets on the characteristics, preferences, and behavior of billions of individuals. This concentration of data is at the root of a worrying power imbalance between dominant internet firms and the rest of society, reflecting negatively on collective security, consumer rights, and competition. Introducing data sharing mandates, or requirements for market leaders to share user data with other firms and academia, would have a positive effect on competition.”

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES – TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

*Patricia Moloney Figliola*

**The Federal Communications Commission: Current Structure and Its Role in the Changing Telecommunications Landscape**

Congressional Research Service – Report – April 18, 2019 – 19 pages

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45699.pdf>

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent federal agency established by the Communications Act of 1934 (1934 Act, or “Communications Act”). The agency is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable. The mission of the FCC is to make available for all people of the United States, “without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nationwide, and worldwide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges.”

*Makada Henry-Nickie, Kwadwo Frimpong, and Hao Sun*

**Trends in the Information Technology Sector**

Brookings – Report – March 29, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/trends-in-the-information-technology-sector>

“As the United States continues to transition to the digital economy, a new report from Makada Henry-Nickie, Kwadwo Frimpong, and Hao Sun analyzes the tremendous potential of the information technology (IT) sector. Despite its relative immaturity, the authors conclude that IT will remain a key player in America’s economic landscape, offering substantial opportunities for growth and employment.”

**Broadband Mapping: Challenges and Solutions**

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation – Hearing - April 10, 2019

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=1B786B30-9A80-4307-AC3B-F42DF79C474D>

“The hearing will examine the current state of the nation’s broadband maps, and evaluate the ongoing efforts within the federal government and private sector to collect more accurate broadband coverage data. The hearing also will examine ways to increase coordination among federal agencies that administer broadband deployment programs to ensure resources are targeted to unserved areas.”

### **Strengthening the Cybersecurity of the Internet of Things**

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation – Hearing - April 30, 2019

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=A6113AB7-E89B-48C7-B555-E3CBB1466040>

“The hearing will examine the security threats and challenges posed by the Internet of Things (IoT), and ways to incentivize building more cybersecurity by design into connected devices and the networks that support them. The hearing will also examine the importance of 5G network security to connected devices and the manner in which the federal government, businesses community, and consumers can promote and support increased IoT cybersecurity.”

## **INFRASTRUCTURE – TRANSPORTATION**

*Joseph W. Kane*

### **Aging and In Need of Attention: America’s Infrastructure and Its 17 Million Workers**

Brookings - The Avenue - April 16, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2019/04/16/aging-and-in-need-of-attention-americas-infrastructure-and-its-17-million-workers>

“More than 17 million people are employed in U.S. infrastructure jobs, but many are nearing retirement. Joseph Kane calls on policymakers to help prepare a new generation of workers for these well-paying and essential jobs to fix America’s growing infrastructure challenges.”

*Karla Walter*

### **Infrastructure Investment Must Create Good Jobs for All**

Center for American Progress – Report - April 22, 2019 – 14 pages

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2019/04/17101517/Infrastructure-Investment.pdf>

“Lawmakers must ensure that any major infrastructure investment helps secure the nation's long-term prosperity. This means that the jobs supported by the plan must pay fair wages, provide good benefits and a voice on the job, and offer American workers from all walks of life a pathway to the middle class.”

*Chye-Ching Huang and Roderick Taylor*

### **Any Federal Infrastructure Package Should Boost Investment in Low-Income Communities**

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities – Report - April 4, 2019 – 11 pages

<https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/4-4-19bud.pdf>

“As federal policymakers consider investments to address the nation’s pressing infrastructure needs, a core priority should be to direct substantial resources to low-income communities... Decades of policy choices and insufficient public and private investment have made the infrastructure needs of these communities acute, especially in many communities of color where past policy choices affected by racism, combined with continuing racial bias and discrimination, have resulted in a lack of needed resources. Areas for new investments that could expand low-income communities’ access to safe living conditions include housing, schools, transportation, and water, air, and environmental safety.”

*Robert D. Atkinson*

**A Policymaker’s Guide to Road User Charges**

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation – Report – April 2019 – 23 pages

<https://itif.org/printpdf/8448>

“America’s roads are funded through a variety of means such as fuel and tire taxes, vehicle registration fees, and tolls. However, as advances in vehicle technology result in less revenue per mile traveled, these funding methods are becoming unsustainable. Instead, policymakers should create a national “road user charge” system, which would use technology to log the mileage of cars and trucks and then charge drivers accordingly based on their travel.”

*Doug Brake*

**Submarine Cables: Critical Infrastructure for Global Communications**

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation – Briefing – April 2019 – 11 pages

[http://www2.itif.org/2019-submarine-cables.pdf?\\_ga=2.169069665.1707893241.1556181322-1562931536.1436366239](http://www2.itif.org/2019-submarine-cables.pdf?_ga=2.169069665.1707893241.1556181322-1562931536.1436366239)

“Submarine cables play a critical role in global interconnected networks, carrying about 99 percent of international communications traffic. Sharp growth in demand for data, fueled by bandwidth-intensive applications such as video and a proliferation of cloud-based services, has driven a considerable uptick in global submarine cable deployments. The last five years have seen an average 26 percent increase in available capacity per year on major routes. This policy briefing presents a snapshot of key facts about submarine cables. After a short introduction, it addresses the growth in demand for submarine cables, common financing methods, major suppliers, and closes with other important dynamics in the submarine cable industry.”

**AGRICULTURE**

**Securing the Future of American Agriculture**

House Committee on the Judiciary – Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship - Hearing – April 3, 2019

<https://judiciary.house.gov/legislation/hearings/securing-future-american-agriculture>

“It’s PAST time to change our immigration laws. The women and men who are professional farm workers have earned the right to apply for legal status. And the agricultural employers that farm workers partner with to feed America deserve stability and more certainty given all of the challenges we face in agriculture.”

*Megan Stubbs*

**Agricultural Conservation in the 2018 Farm Bill**

Congressional Research Service – Report – April 18, 2019 – 48 pages

<https://fas.org/sfp/crs/misc/R45698.pdf>

“The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 included a number of changes to agricultural conservation programs, including reauthorizing and amending existing programs, directing existing program activities to specific resource concerns, shifting funds within the title, and authorizing a budget-neutral level of funding.”

*Randy Schnepf*

**U.S. Farm Income Outlook for 2019**

Congressional Research Service – Report – April 16, 2019 – 39 pages

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45697.pdf>

“The 2019 net farm income forecast is substantially below (-18%) the 10-year average of \$84.8 billion (in nominal dollars)—primarily the result of the outlook for continued weak prices for most major crops. Commodity prices are under pressure from a record soybean and near-record corn harvest in 2018, diminished export prospects due to an ongoing trade dispute with China, and burdensome stocks.”

**Reviewing the State of the Dairy Economy**

House Committee on Agriculture – Hearing – April 30, 2019

<https://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/hearingDetails.aspx?NewsID=1394>

“America’s dairy industry is in crisis, and today’s hearing is just one part of this subcommittee’s continued effort to respond to the challenges facing dairy farmers across this country. Addressing these critical problems is a top priority for the Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee. The United States lost nearly 20,000 licensed dairies over the last ten years... Dairy directly provides nearly 1 million U.S. jobs with an economic impact of over 200 billion dollars nationwide.”

**EMPLOYMENT**

**America at Work: A National Mosaic and Roadmap for Tomorrow**

Walmart (commissioned by) – 2019 - 44 pages

[https://corporate.walmart.com/media-library/document/america-at-work-report/\\_proxyDocument?id=00000168-dec5-d9f9-a7f8-deed73c70001](https://corporate.walmart.com/media-library/document/america-at-work-report/_proxyDocument?id=00000168-dec5-d9f9-a7f8-deed73c70001)

This report “examines resiliency, or the capacity to respond to change—in this case, automation. This report results from the first effort to understand the more than 3,000 counties in the United States. Our goal is to help communities plan for their individual situations and develop responses that will position them to survive and thrive in a changing economy. Effective responses will require an integrated approach and cooperation across a range of stakeholders.”

**What Would It Take for Everyone to Succeed in the Future Labor Market?**

Urban Institute – Brief – April 2019 – 52 pages

[https://next50.urban.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/2019.04.11\\_Next50%20Lifelong%20Learning%20report\\_finalized.pdf](https://next50.urban.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/2019.04.11_Next50%20Lifelong%20Learning%20report_finalized.pdf)

“We envision a future in which opportunities for lifelong learning enable our nation’s increasingly diverse workforce to meet changing job requirements and thrive in family-sustaining employment throughout their working lives. This reimagined postsecondary education and training system—encompassing colleges, other training and service providers, the workforce development system, and employers—would offer multiple affordable pathways for high-quality learning and skill-building aligned with the labor market and the opportunity to secure good jobs, with costs equitably distributed among students, businesses, and government.”

*Lauren Bauer, Patrick Liu, and Jay Shambaugh*

**Is the Continued Rise of Older Americans in the Workforce Necessary for Future Growth?**

Brookings – Up Front - April 4, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2019/04/04/is-the-continued-rise-of-older-americans-in-the-workforce-necessary-for-future-growth/>

“Though the overall U.S. labor force participation rate has declined over the last decade, the aging of the American population is not entirely to blame. Lauren Bauer, Patrick Liu, and Jay Shambaugh find that workers over the age of 55 are actually working at higher rates than earlier generations, while young people—particularly young men—are driving the rate down.”

### **Is Gig Work Replacing Traditional Employment? Evidence from Two Decades of Tax Returns**

Internal Revenue Service - March 25, 2019 – 72 pages

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/19rpgigworkreplacingtraditionalemployment.pdf>

“Conventional wisdom suggests that the “gig economy” has grown significantly, but proving this has been difficult. Using data from individual tax returns, Brett Collins of the Internal Revenue Service and coauthors estimate that the number of workers participating in gig work rose from virtually zero in 2012 to 1.9 million in 2016—representing about 1 percent of the U.S. workforce. However, they show these new forms of work mostly supplement income for workers with other primary jobs. Workers are no more likely to earn a full-time living from gig work now than they were in 2005. While the analysis suggests that gig work is not replacing traditional jobs, it does indicate that workers in traditional jobs are now more likely to have additional work on the side—raising the possibilities that workers have stronger preferences for flexible jobs or that traditional jobs offer less stable income than in the past.”

*Andre M. Perry*

### **College Students Should Get More from Work Study Jobs**

Brookings - The Avenue - March 29, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2019/03/29/college-students-should-get-more-from-work-study-jobs>

“Instead of swiping access cards, signing people in, or sitting behind a front desk, Andre Perry asks: Why can't more on-campus work-study jobs help today's college students prepare for the actual careers they want to pursue?”

*Martha Ross and Natalie Holmes*

### **Meet the Millions of Young Adults Who Are Out of Work**

Brookings – Report - April 9, 2019 – 36 pages

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019.04.09\\_Brookings-metro\\_Out-of-Work\\_Youth\\_Ross-Holmes.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019.04.09_Brookings-metro_Out-of-Work_Youth_Ross-Holmes.pdf)

“Despite a low national unemployment rate, millions of young adults are out of work across the nation. A new interactive report by Martha Ross and Natalie Holmes puts faces to out-of-work youth and outlines strategies for policymakers to connect them back to the job market.”

### **Work Requirements Don't Work - A Behavioral Science Perspective**

Ideas 42 – Paper – March 2019 - 21 pages

<http://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ideas42-Work-Requirements-Paper.pdf>

“Proposals to take away medical, food, housing and income assistance from people who do not meet a work requirement have become a centerpiece of the conservative policy agenda, often justified with the claim that the threat of cutting benefits will encourage work. This ignores the growing body of scientific evidence that these policies are misguided and will make it harder for individuals to maintain or find employment.”

## WAGES

*Andrew G. Biggs*

### **The Growth of Salaries and Benefits in the Federal Government, State and Local Governments and Public Education, 1998–2017**

AEI - Working Paper – April 2019 – 42 pages

<https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/WP-2019-09-Biggs.pdf>

“Are public-sector workers underpaid relative to their private-sector counterparts? New work from Andrew Biggs finds that when taking both salary and benefits into account, compensation increases in the public sector have outpaced those of the private sector for the past 20 years — especially for federal employees.”

*Michael Morris, Robert Rich and Joseph Tracy*

### **How Much Do Movers Move Average Wage Growth?**

FRB Dallas – Economic Letter – April 24, 2019

<https://www.dallasfed.org/research/economics/2019/0326>

“Data from the Current Population Survey, a household survey used to compute the unemployment rate, do not include individuals who change residences. If it could include movers, our previous estimate of 2018 average individual wage growth would increase from 5.0 percent to 5.5 percent or higher.”

## PENSIONS

### **Worker Participation in Employer-Sponsored Pensions: A Fact Sheet**

Congressional Research Service – Report – Updated April 30, 2019 – 7 pages

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43439.pdf>

“This fact sheet provides data on the percentage of U.S. workers who have access to and who participate in employer-sponsored pension plans.”

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

### **The Impact of Trade on U.S. and State-Level Employment: 2019 Update**

Business Roundtable – Study – April 2019 – 26 pages

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/brt.org/Trade\\_and\\_American\\_Jobs\\_2019.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/brt.org/Trade_and_American_Jobs_2019.pdf)

“U.S. trade continues to expand, and with it, U.S. employment. Based on the latest available data (2017) and taking into account both the gains and the losses (i.e., a net estimate), trade supports nearly 39million U.S. jobs. This means that one in every five U.S. jobs is linked to exports and imports of goods and services. Nearly two times as many jobs were supported by trade in 2017as in 1992 – before the accelerated wave of trade liberalization that began with the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994 –when our earlier research found that trade supported 14.5 million net jobs, or one in every ten U.S. jobs.”

### **The Small Business Trade Snapshot: Agriculture and Workers**

House Committee on Small Business – Hearing – April 2, 2019

<https://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=493>

“Trade issues have been at the forefront of national conversations due to the implications for nearly every sector of our economy. Small businesses, which include farmers, make up ninety-seven percent of U.S. exporters. The hearing will examine the state of trade for small businesses, farmers, and the employees who are critical to small businesses in numerous industries. It will also offer an opportunity to discuss small business and labor goals for future trade activities.”

*Bradley Parks*

**Where Has the Millennium Challenge Corporation Succeeded and Failed to Incentivize Reform—and Why?**

Brookings – Future Development - April 1, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2019/04/01/where-has-the-millennium-challenge-corporation-succeeded-and-failed-to-incentivize-reform-and-why>

“Among the 23 federal agencies that are involved in the design and delivery of U.S. foreign assistance programs, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is truly unique... Fifteen years have passed since the Bush administration announced that MCC would be used as a tool to incentivize reform in the developing world, and the Trump administration’s National Security Strategy reaffirms this strategic vision for MCC. Yet we still have remarkably little evidence about whether, when, and how MCC eligibility standards have influenced the reform efforts of low- and middle-income countries.”

**CHINA**

*Melanie Hart and Kelly Magsamen*

**Limit, Leverage, and Compete: A New Strategy on China**

Center for American Progress – Report – April 2019 – 50 pages

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2019/04/16080401/ChinaStrategy-report1.pdf>

“The greatest geopolitical challenge in the 21st century will be how the United States—and the rest of the world—responds to the rise of China. If China's vision prevails—if it becomes the dominant power of the 21st century—there is a risk that the United States and the world will be less free, less prosperous, and less safe. The Center for American Progress released a new, three-pronged strategy that will better position the United States to succeed in the 21st century vis-à-vis China by focusing on our comparative advantages: the American people, our democratic values, and our allies and partners.”

**Risks, Rewards, and Results: U.S. Companies in China and Chinese Companies in the United States**

US-China Economic and Security Review Commission – Hearing – February 28, 2019

<https://www.uscc.gov/Hearings/risks-rewards-and-results-us-companies-china-and-chinese-companies-united-states>

“When China joined the WTO, it was the sixth largest economy in terms of nominal GDP. American companies were attracted to the large and rapidly growing market in spite of concerns about restrictions on investment opportunities, a lack of regulatory transparency and inconsistent enforcement of rules and law. Today China is the world’s second largest economy and the world’s leading exporter yet perceptions of both risk and reward for the global private sector remain largely unchanged... It is this dichotomy that our hearing today will address. On the one hand, Chinese consumers and the broader market represent obvious opportunity. On the other hand, evidence suggests the Chinese Communist Party has skillfully and consistently protected their interests, particularly in state-owned enterprises.”

*Robert D. Atkinson and Caleb Foote*

**China Is Catching Up to the U.S. in Innovation**

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation - Report – April 2019 – 57 pages

[http://www2.itif.org/2019-china-catching-up-innovation.pdf?\\_ga=2.174727266.1101972804.1556799140-1562931536.1436366239](http://www2.itif.org/2019-china-catching-up-innovation.pdf?_ga=2.174727266.1101972804.1556799140-1562931536.1436366239)

“As China works to gain competitive advantage in advanced industries, there is a misperception it cannot innovate. In reality, China is making rapid progress, having cut its innovation gap with the U.S. by a factor of 1.5 in the past decade. Backed by a powerful, often unfair arsenal of state policies, it has evolved from an innovation copier to a reverse innovator and now an innovator in its own right.”

**China in Space: A Strategic Competition?**

US-China Economic and Security Review Commission – Hearing – April 25, 2019

<https://www.uscc.gov/Hearings/china-space-strategic-competition>

“China is demonstrating a focused and long term interest in both the national security and commercial implications of the space domain. China’s investments in autonomy, robotics, and artificial intelligence have been, and likely will remain, significant. China’s work in quantum communications and other advanced processing constructs set the stage for significant breakout capabilities. While these breakout capabilities have yet to be realized, they merit close scrutiny.”

*Chad P. Bown*

**The 2018 US-China Trade Conflict after 40 Years of Special Protection**

Peterson Institute – Working Paper – April 2019 – 34 pages

<https://piie.com/system/files/documents/wp19-7.pdf>

“Bown puts the sheer scope of tariff protection that the United States and China erected in 2018 into historical context and explains the key sources of economic and policy friction between the two countries.”

*Chad P. Bown and Eva (Yiwen) Zhang*

**Will a US-China Trade Deal Remove or Just Restructure the Massive 2018 Tariffs?**

Peterson Institute - Trade & Investment Policy Watch – April 24, 2019

<https://piie.com/blogs/trade-investment-policy-watch/will-us-china-trade-deal-remove-or-just-restructure-massive-2018>

“After spending 2018 imposing tariffs on over \$360 billion of each other's trade, the United States and China are now negotiating how to resolve President Donald Trump's trade war. Recent media reports and business concerns suggest the duties may not be removed—even if the two countries reach a deal.”

*Urban J. Jermann, Bin Wei, and Vivian Z. Yue*

**The Two-Pillar Policy for the RMB**

FRB Atlanta - Working Paper - April 2019 – 49 pages

<https://www.frbatlanta.org/-/media/documents/research/publications/wp/2019/08-the-two-pillar-policy-for-the-rmb-2019-04-10.pdf>

“Atlanta Fed research examines the renminbi, finding a policy seeking to balance the currency's index stability and exchange rate flexibility.”

## ENVIRONMENT

*Benjamin Zycher*

### **The Green New Deal: Economics and Policy Analytics**

American Enterprise Institute – Report – April 2019 – 116 pages

<http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/RPT-The-Green-New-Deal-5.5x8.5-FINAL.pdf>

“At its core, the Green New Deal is the substitution of central planning in place of market forces for resource allocation in the US energy and transportation sectors narrowly and in the broad industrial, commercial, and residential sectors writ large. Benjamin Zycher explores the impact of the legislation.”

*Cary Funk and Brian Kennedy*

### **For Earth Day, How Americans See Climate Change in 5 Charts**

Pew Research Center – Fact Tank – April 19, 2019

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/04/19/how-americans-see-climate-change-in-5-charts/>

“With Earth Day just behind us, we’re looking into views on the environment, including climate change. For starters, 56 percent of U.S. adults say protecting the environment should be a top priority for the president and Congress.”

### **Lessons from Across the Nation: State and Local Action to Combat Climate Change**

House Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee – Hearing – April 2, 2019

<https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/hearing-on-lessons-from-across-the-nation-state-and-local-action-to>

“This morning we will hear from elected representatives of state and local governments about what they are doing to address climate change. Their actions are more important than ever considering the Trump Administration denies climate change is happening and continues to push policies that will only make it worse.”

### **Closing the Loop: Emerging Technologies in Plastics Recycling**

House Subcommittee on Research and Technology – Hearing – April 30, 2019

<https://science.house.gov/hearings/closing-the-loop-emerging-technologies-in-plastics-recycling>

“It has been a decade since the Science Committee last held a hearing on recycling and the challenges have only grown. During this hearing, we will examine recycling technologies and the technology gaps that prevent more of our plastics from being recycled, especially in light of China’s new policy to ban the import of most postconsumer recyclable materials, including plastics, which the U.S. and other developing countries have been shipping there for the past 25 years. While some businesses were selling China clean and well sorted plastics, others were not. This was cited as a main reason for the ban.”

## ENERGY

*Mark Muro, Adie Tomer, Ranjitha Shivaram, and Joseph W. Kane*

### **Advancing Inclusion Through Clean Energy Jobs**

Brookings – Report - April 2019 – 44 pages

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019.04\\_metro\\_Clean-Energy-Jobs\\_Report\\_Muro-Tomer-Shivaran-Kane\\_updated.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019.04_metro_Clean-Energy-Jobs_Report_Muro-Tomer-Shivaran-Kane_updated.pdf)

“As Congress debates the Green New Deal and U.S. industries shift away from fossil fuels, a new report from the Metropolitan Policy Program explores how the clean energy sector can provide high-quality jobs to America’s underrepresented populations.”

**Investing in America’s Energy Infrastructure: Improving Energy Efficiency and Creating a Diverse Workforce**

House Energy Subcommittee – Hearing - April 10, 2019

<https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/hearing-on-investing-in-america-s-energy-infrastructure-improving-energy>

“Today we’re here to discuss legislation that invests in making our nation’s infrastructure more energy efficient... A critical piece of infrastructure includes making homes, buildings, cities and manufacturing facilities more energy efficient. Efficiency work supports thousands of good-paying jobs at small businesses in every state. And weatherizing homes or retrofitting public buildings saves money and supports our efforts to address climate change. The eight bills before us will increase energy efficiency, develop a modern energy workforce and strengthen energy security.”

*David M. Hart*

**Energy Storage RD&D in the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal**

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation – Briefing – March 2019 – 8 pages

<https://www.itif.org/printpdf/8392>

“The Trump administration has proposed budgeting \$158 million to establish an advanced energy storage initiative within the Energy Department. This is a welcome, but inadequate response to the urgent need to expand and better coordinate federal investment in energy storage research, development, and demonstration (RD&D). In fact, the initiative’s proposed budget would likely represent a cut from current levels and limiting the effort to DOE would miss an opportunity to strengthen synergies across agencies, particularly with DOD. Congress should expand the energy storage RD&D budget and press the administration to adopt a whole-of-government strategy and build international cooperation in this important field.”

*Colin Cunliff*

**FY 2020 Energy Innovation Funding: Congress Should Push the Pedal to the Metal**

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation - Report – April 2019 – 102 pages

[http://www2.itif.org/2019-energy-innovation-full-report.pdf?\\_ga=2.182996198.1101972804.1556799140-1562931536.1436366239](http://www2.itif.org/2019-energy-innovation-full-report.pdf?_ga=2.182996198.1101972804.1556799140-1562931536.1436366239)

The Trump administration has once again proposed massive cuts to energy RD&D. But Congress should not give this year’s budget proposal any greater credence than it has given the last two. A program-by-program analysis shows why lawmakers should instead continue down the path of elevating investments in clean energy innovation as a national priority.

**Opportunities for Energy Innovation and Other Potential Solutions to Help Address Global Climate Change**

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing – April 11, 2019

<https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=25029A7B-54AD-4BB9-BB7B-08D6B75324A5>

“Greater use of electricity will almost certainly lead to an increase in global emissions. The opportunity we have in front of us is to foster an innovation ecosystem here in the United States that can lead to energy breakthroughs that deliver cleaner, more affordable, and more reliable energy

technologies. The United States leads the world in energy innovation. Our national labs and universities, as well as the private sector, are developing technologies that could be deployed around the world to reduce our emissions. And that could occur through a number of pathways—whether it’s advanced nuclear; carbon capture, utilization and storage; energy storage; or a technology that is just starting to show its potential.”

### **Nuclear Energy**

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing – April 30, 2019

<https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=588FE47B-C329-42B9-968F-B7B8708E32EA>

“The purpose of the hearing is to examine pathways to reestablish U.S. global leadership in nuclear energy and to receive testimony on S. 903, the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act.”