

SENATOR

MITT ROMNEY

SENATOR ROMNEY'S WEEKLY RECAP

July 19 - July 24, 2020

As the Senate continued discussions on additional coronavirus relief, Senator Romney [outlined](#) the five key components he believes should be included in the *CARES 2* package, including a [measure](#) to tame the burgeoning federal debt. During remarks on the Senate floor, [Leader McConnell indicated](#) that Senator Romney's bipartisan [TRUST Act](#), legislation to rein in the debt and help rescue our federal trusts funds from impending insolvency, would be included next week in the framework for *CARES 2*. This week, the Senate also [passed](#) the *Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA), which includes [amendments](#) the Senator pushed to better position the U.S. to compete with China and to support the role of Utah in our national security. Keep reading for more updates.



Congress must take additional action to weather the damage caused by COVID-19. Senator Romney, in an [op-ed](#), outlined the [five key components](#) he believes should be included in a Phase 4 package: support for employers in severe distress, extension and repair of unemployment insurance; aid to states and localities to help fill COVID-19-related revenue gaps; liability protections to guard against a flood of lawsuits; and finally, a measure to tame the burgeoning federal debt once the crisis has passed.

Senate Republicans are expected to introduce a framework for the *CARES 2* coronavirus relief package next week. Senator Romney has been pushing leaders to include the [TRUST Act](#)—supported by 13 Republican and Democratic cosponsors—in any final relief package. On Thursday, Leader McConnell announced it would be included in the *CARES 2* framework to be released next week. Read more about the *TRUST Act* [here](#).

How to get the next COVID-19 relief package right

Opinion by: Senator Mitt Romney | July 19, 2020

We need to get the next CARES Act right. Not that the first one was so bad; despite its flaws, the emergency required rapid action. Now more careful crafting is called for: many small businesses that employ millions of Americans are permanently closing, bigger businesses that employ additional millions are facing strong headwinds, local governments are preparing for layoffs and the federal checking account is badly overdrawn. We need to take additional action at the federal level to weather the damage.

I believe five key components should be included in the Phase 4 package: support for employers in severe distress, extension and repair of unemployment insurance; aid to states and localities to help fill COVID-19-related revenue gaps; liability protections to guard against a flood of lawsuits; and finally, a measure to tame the burgeoning federal debt once the crisis has passed.

Full op-ed by Senator Romney [here](#).

Later in the week, Senator Romney [spoke](#) to KSL NewsRadio about [potential components](#) of CARES 2 and the need for a national strategy for speeding up testing of COVID-19. You can [listen to the interview](#) below:



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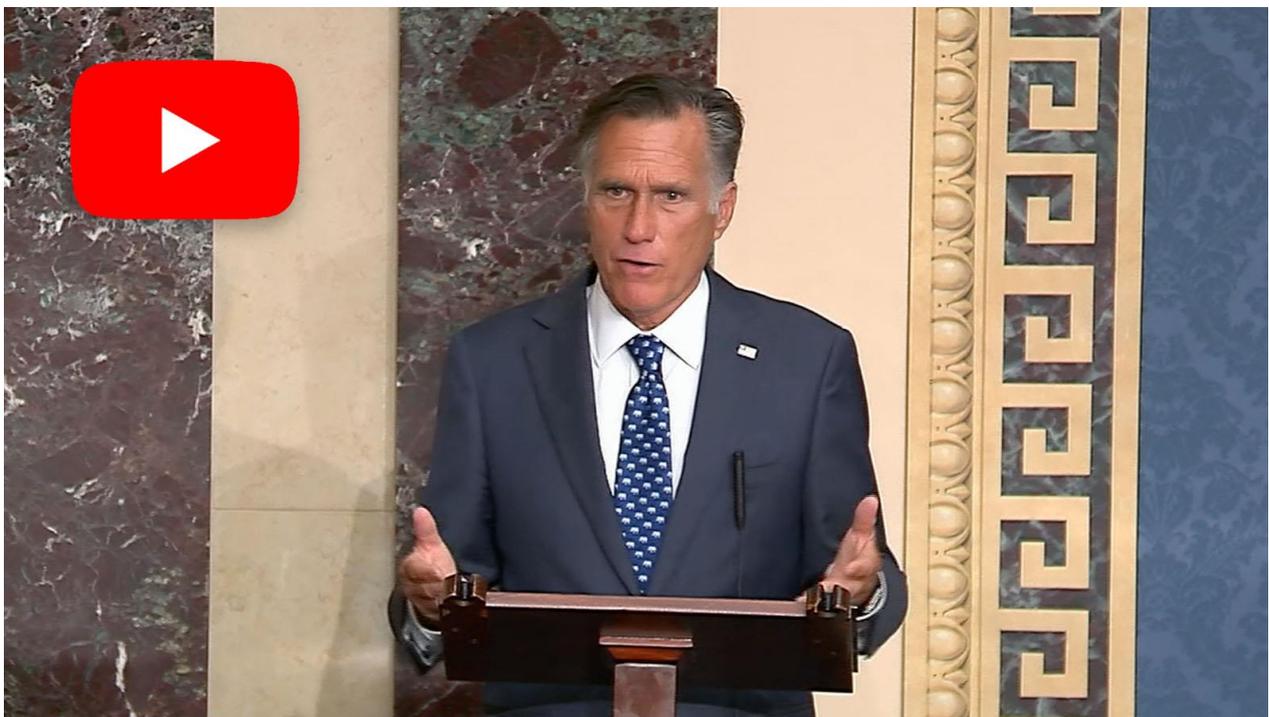
Sen. Mitt Romney
on economic stimulus and
testing failures

 LISTEN HERE



This week, the Senate passed the [NDAA](#) by a vote of 86-14. Upon passage, the Senator released the following [statement](#): *"As we face growing and complex challenges around the world, this bipartisan legislation authorizes critical policy and programs that will strengthen our national security and support our military readiness. I'm proud that the final bill includes measures I authored to better position the U.S. to develop a strategy to compete with a rising China, both economically and militarily. Importantly, the legislation includes an amendment that Senator Lee and I authored to reaffirm the critical role Utah plays in our national security by continuing to support the work of Dugway Proving Ground."*

Earlier in the week, Senator Romney [spoke](#) on the Senate floor regarding his [NDAA amendment](#) to prevent the withdrawal of U.S. troops deployed to Germany and his disappointment that the Senate has not even debated this critical national security matter. His [speech](#) can be watched below:



We must rethink our China strategy because the current U.S. approach just isn't working. During a [Senate Foreign Relations](#) hearing, Senator Romney [stressed](#) the need for the U.S. to join forces with other likeminded nations to confront China's growing aggression, or risk being left in the rearview mirror.



Senator Romney [partnered](#) with Senators Risch (R-ID), Gardner (R-CO), and Young (R-IN) to introduce the *Strengthening Trade, Regional Alliances, Technology, and Economic and Geopolitical Initiatives Concerning China Act* ([STRATEGIC Act](#)), legislation to develop additional tools to help us understand China's intent, guard against China's malign influence, and safeguard our interests. The Senator also [spoke](#) with the Center for Strategic & International Studies about the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to address China. Video below:





The Bonneville Shoreline Trail provides great outdoor recreational opportunities for Utahns, but several wilderness-designated areas along the trail are hampering full use of the trail and prohibiting bicyclists in those areas. Senator Romney, along with Representative John Curtis (R-UT), introduced the [Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act](#), which would adjust the boundaries without increasing wilderness area to ensure that the trail can be completed and fully accessible.



Federal bill works to connect popular Bonneville Shoreline Trail through Northern Utah

By: Mitch Shaw | July 21, 2020

OGDEN — A new piece of federal legislation aims to advance the popular Bonneville Shoreline Trail — part of a plan that will ultimately connect the route from central Utah to the very northern reaches of the state.

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act, introduced by Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, and Rep. John Curtis, R-Utah, aims to free up about 326 acres of wilderness divided up over more than 20 small locations, to accommodate new construction of the existing trail and allow for mountain biking in areas where it's currently prohibited.

...

Romney said as it's been built up over the years, the trail has provided great outdoor recreational opportunities for Utahns, but the wilderness designated areas dotting the pathway are hampering full use of the trail.

“(This bill) would adjust the boundaries ... to ensure that the trail can be completed and fully accessible,” Romney said in a statement.

Full story by Mitch Shaw [here](#).