Top Legislative Priorities

Infrastructure

Equipment manufacturers support policies that will help rebuild and modernize our nation’s infrastructure and ensure the industry’s long-term economic growth and competitiveness.

Our Position

AEM supports comprehensive legislation to rebuild our infrastructure, create good-paying jobs, grow our economy, and help reclaim our infrastructure advantage. AEM believes the federal government must continue to maintain a strong role in funding U.S. infrastructure construction, maintenance, and modernization. We must work together to help connect urban and rural America, ensure infrastructure assets are safe and resilient, focus on upskilling or reskilling workers to address the infrastructure workforce challenges facing the country, and maximize the use of smart technology.

Policy Priorities

AEM’s top policy priority is for Congress to secure a timely, multi-year reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program and provide a long-term and sustainable funding mechanism for the Highway Trust Fund by the time the program expires in September 2021. This will help improve our economy, our competitiveness, and our quality of life, and help drive the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Increased investment in infrastructure will create family-sustaining jobs that will require an advanced 21st century workforce. AEM supports the creation of a grant program that supports workforce development and apprenticeships targeted at infrastructure industries including transportation, construction, energy, information technology, and utilities.

AEM also supports policies that strengthen “user pay” models, unlock the full potential of private investment, put smart regulation to work, accelerate innovation, and plan to maintain what is built. These policies must not only apply to roads, bridges, public transit, and rail. They must also be used to renew ports, upgrade locks, dams, and inland waterways, modernize aviation infrastructure, rehabilitate drinking and wastewater facilities, expand rural broadband, and improve energy infrastructure.

Why a Long-Term Fix to the Highway Trust Fund Matters

The Highway Trust Fund faces a projected shortfall in the billions by the end of 2022 if not provided with a permanent, dedicated, user-based revenue stream.

AEM.org/advocacy

The U.S. equipment manufacturing industry generates roughly

$288 BILLION a year to our economy

Our industry raises over $53.7 BILLION in tax revenue for federal and state governments each year

The average income of a job in equipment manufacturing is 35% above the national average

2.8 MILLION equipment manufacturing jobs supported across all 50 states

12% of all U.S. manufacturing sector jobs