



Association of
Equipment Manufacturers

2021 Policy Priorities



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The equipment manufacturing industry supports one in eight manufacturing jobs in the United States.

The 2.8 million men and women of our industry make the equipment that builds, powers and feeds the world. They rely on the right policies at every level—local, state and national. The Association of Equipment Manufacturers works to advance bipartisan, commonsense solutions to many of the country's toughest challenges.

While a combine harvester cutting corn or an excavator digging a trench are common sights for many Americans, most do not realize what that equipment means for the hardworking Americans who build it, or understand the impact that the equipment manufacturing industry has on communities across the country. Whether it is an operator

controlling a robotic welding system or a software engineer designing controls for a new wheel loader, millions of jobs and opportunities are created by equipment manufacturers.

In this booklet you will find an overview of the equipment manufacturing industry's policy priorities for 2021. These are not the only issues that the Association of Equipment Manufacturers will engage on this year, but it is where we will focus most of our efforts to support our industry, strengthen our economy and improve the lives of all Americans.

We look forward to working with you.



Dennis Slater

President

Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Infrastructure

Ensure the industry's long-term economic growth and competitiveness by rebuilding and modernizing our nation's infrastructure.



Enact a comprehensive, forward-looking infrastructure plan

Pass comprehensive legislation to rebuild our infrastructure, create good-paying jobs, grow our economy, manage environmental stressors and help reclaim our infrastructure advantage.

Ensure the inclusion of investment in other infrastructure assets such as rural broadband, ports, locks, dams, inland waterways, aviation infrastructure, drinking and wastewater facilities and energy infrastructure.



Secure a long-term reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program

Enact a long-term reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program and a sustainable funding mechanism for the Highway Trust Fund by the time the program expires in September 2021.

Forge bipartisan solutions that strengthen "user pay" models, unlock the full potential of private investment, streamline the federal permitting process, accelerate innovation and plan to maintain what is built.



Support the needs of the infrastructure workforce

Put in place a grant program that supports workforce development and apprenticeships targeted at infrastructure industries, including transportation, construction, energy, information technology and utilities.

Trade

Support free- and fair-trade policies and agreements that keep the industry strong and America's 2.8 million equipment manufacturers employed.



Improve relationships with global trading partners

Press for a China policy that seeks improved access to the Chinese market, advances structural reforms in China and tariff relief through new negotiations, and works with allies globally to counter the challenges posed by China's state capitalist policies.

Secure bilateral trade agreements with the United Kingdom, Kenya and the Asia-Pacific.

Solve long-standing issues with our trading partners including the EU, and end the use of tariffs.



Curb the misuse of tariffs and other protectionist policies

Enact bipartisan legislation to ensure that future Section 232 actions are taken only in cases of legitimate national security concerns, preserving this important tool while also boosting transparency and accountability.

Ensure future Buy American provisions do not subject U.S. firms to retaliatory sanctions in other markets, jeopardizing our ability to sell U.S. manufactured goods and services to foreign government procurement markets.

Work with the administration and congress to create policies that strengthen critical U.S. manufacturing supply chains without disrupting just-in-time manufacturing procedures.



Renew key legislation to keep American manufacturing competitive

Secure approval of legislation renewing Trade Promotion Authority, the Generalized System of Preferences, and the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill.

Oppose punitive measures relating to supply chains or excessive reliance on Buy American measures that invite foreign retaliation and instead advance policies to foster resiliency through incentives, mitigate risk through geographic diversity of supply, and avoid new trade barriers.

Rural America

Fight for a strong and diverse agricultural economy to help farmers and ranchers succeed and strengthen rural communities across the country.



Invest in robust, affordable, and reliable broadband

Support policies that facilitate the accelerated deployment of broadband across rural America—including ranchland and cropland, where wireless connectivity is essential to production agriculture.

Educate lawmakers about the benefits of precision agriculture technology and modern milking systems, including their reliance on rural broadband.

Implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission's Precision Agriculture Task Force.



Provide economic certainty for farmers and ranchers

Advocate for policies that help farmers and ranchers manage risk by ensuring an adequate safety net through programs such as crop insurance.

Advance and protect policies such as the Renewable Fuel Standard that support and expand the production and use of agricultural-based fuel.

Ensure trade policies enhance access to foreign markets for farmers and ranchers, not restrict them.



Secure dedicated funding for rural roads and bridges

Secure an increase in federal transportation funding and recognition of the unique needs that rural roads and bridges present to ensure their eligibility for federal grants and funding.

Advocate for policies that will facilitate increased investment in inland waterways, locks, dams, water and wastewater infrastructure and rail.

Workforce Development

Reduce the skills gap, end misperceptions about modern equipment manufacturing and create a pipeline of skilled workers to meet the needs of the 21st century economy.



Support employers seeking talent to educate and train

Expand Pell Grant eligibility to high-quality, short-term skill-based education programs

Include workforce development provisions in infrastructure reauthorization legislation.

Expand tax credits for employers that provide training to employees.



Reauthorize and expand the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Increase funding for WIOA to provide workers who have been displaced or are underemployed as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with access to skills-based training and education.

Expand WIOA programs to provide broader access to programs and additional support so that barriers such as childcare and transportation costs don't prevent individuals from attaining skills and credentials.



Modernize the Registered Apprenticeship Program

Create an apprenticeship system that is flexible, easy to use, streamlined, and has sufficient support for employers.

Establish a national model that provides reciprocity between states and programs approved and registered with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Tax

Advance effective tax, fiscal and monetary policy to promote investment, competitiveness and job creation in the equipment manufacturing industry.



Advocate for continued pro-growth tax policies in relevant tax legislation and permanency of pro-growth provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

Prevent rollback of any parts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.



Prevent rollback of any parts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's pro-growth provisions and oppose anti-growth tax policy proposals.

Make permanent and expand the new 20% deduction for business income earned through a pass-through entity.

Keep tax rates on business profits low and competitive.



Enhance incentives for research and development and capital investment

Update and fix provisions of the tax law that make research and development financing more expensive.

Ensure that key incentives for capital equipment purchases remain in the tax code.



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