April 2, 2020

AEM is working closely with government leaders in the United States and Canada, providing them with regular updates on the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the day-to-day operations of equipment manufacturers and offering policy recommendations designed to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our member companies.

Here are some of the recent developments:

**AEM Urges President Trump to Push for Infrastructure Investment**
Today, AEM sent a letter to President Trump urging him to work with Congress to include infrastructure investment in the next government relief package. This letter compliments the letter previously sent to Congressional leadership and is a recognition of the growing support in Congress and by the President to include a massive – up to $2 trillion – infrastructure package in the net coronavirus bill in an effort to help the country recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**AEM Joins Letter to House Leadership on Investment in Infrastructure Workforce**
AEM joined other national organizations today on a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) urging them to include both infrastructure and workforce investments in future stimulus packages. This letter comes as AEM is stepping up its efforts to promote infrastructure investment to blunt the economic damage from the COVID-19 pandemic on all sectors of the U.S. economy, including the equipment manufacturing industry.

**AEM Continues to Coordinate with Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency**
AEM participated in a call with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). If your organization believes they have encountered a cybersecurity threat or incident within their infrastructure, please report it to CISA. For more information on how to best protect and secure yourself and your infrastructure, visit CISA’s cybersecurity page.

Did you know that CISA has over 120 Protective Security Advisor (PSA) Programs across the United States? These individuals are trained critical infrastructure and vulnerability mitigation subject matter experts. They also advise and assist state, local, and private sector officials and critical infrastructure facility owners and operators. Find out more about the PSA Program on the CISA website, and reach out to your local advisor at CIOCC.Physical@cisa.dhs.gov.

**New Labor Dept. Rule on Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Webinar Tomorrow**
The U.S. Department of Labor today announced new action regarding how American workers and employers will benefit from the protections and relief offered by the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, both part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). As a reminder, the FFCRA gives businesses with fewer than 500 employees funds to provide employees with paid sick and family and medical leave for reasons related to COVID-19, either for the employee's own health needs or to care for family members. For more details, visit this IRS web page. Also, USDA’s Wage and Hour Division will post a recorded webinar tomorrow, Friday, April 3, to provide interested parties a more in-depth description and help them learn more about the FFCRA. To view the webinar, visit www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic.

State Activities
AEM is monitoring activities taken by Governors as they continue to issue closure orders and other guidance, and we are in close contact with their staff to make the case that our industry should be deemed “essential.”

Today, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf issued a state-wide stay at home order, the Governor of South Carolina closed non-essential retail businesses, and the Governors of Maine, Nevada, Oklahoma, and South Carolina, extended the duration of previous stay at home orders.

The map below summarizes each state’s status. For all of the latest information, please visit our dedicated state by state tracker.

Many states have implemented initiatives that halt various economic activities

Business-related state mitigation strategies
AS OF APRIL 2, 2020

![Map showing state mitigation strategies](source: American Enterprise Institute, New York Times)

*States with localities that have stay-at-home advisories
Canada Activities
AEM is supporting member companies in Canada as they are navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, including ongoing engagement with federal and provincial lawmakers to make sure that our industry is deemed “essential.”

Today, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Bill Blair, released the federal government's guidance on what it considers to be essential services and functions. Manufacturing is listed as one of Canada’s 10 critical infrastructure sectors. The guidance is non-binding and advisory in nature, and should not be considered to be a federal directive or standard.

In British Columbia, Premier John Horgan has announced an Economic Recovery Task Force on COVID-19. Its tasks include exploring issues around the designation of essential and critical services; child care and other supports for essential workers, and safe workplace operations for businesses operating now, as well as those restarting after the crisis.

**NEW:** AEM has assembled an overview of the measures taken by the Canadian government to support businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This resource will be updated periodically.

We continue to update our resources on our activities on AEM’s COVID-19 resources page.

You can also click here to view the latest updates from each province.

Do you have questions or need to get a hold of AEM’s Advocacy Team? E-mail our Response Team at responseteam@aem.org with any questions or feedback.

As always, if you have any questions about AEM’s ongoing efforts, need assistance with a specific issue, or would like to share how the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic is impacting your business, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at keideberg@aem.org.

Best,
-Kip

Kip Eideberg
Senior Vice President, Government & Industry Relations
Association of Equipment Manufacturers