Over the past weeks, equipment manufacturers across the country have stepped up in a big way to support the ongoing state and federal COVID-19 relief efforts, and Vice President Pence recently commended several of AEM’s member companies for their actions when spoke to the AEM Board of Directors. For those member companies that have resources to donate or are able to produce desperately supplies to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, AEM has the latest information on how to support state and federal relief efforts.

In case you missed yesterday’s AEM webinar on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), please see below for highlights, including details on the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, and Express Bridge Loan Program.

Finally, Congressman Anthony Brindisi (D-N.Y.) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) are hosting a webinar this Thursday on the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. Details below.

Here are some of the other recent developments:

**AEM Shares Information on How to Donate Supplies and/or Produce Needed Goods**

AEM is encouraging member companies to take a look at their inventories and determine what they can donate and/or produce in their facilities to support the urgent and ongoing need for medical supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and other goods and services desperately needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The President and other leaders have made urgent requests for businesses to provide needed supplies, and we’re supporting that message by encouraging our members to participate and do what they can both locally and nationally,” said AEM President Dennis Slater. “Our member companies have state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and inventories of supplies, and we know they will respond to this call to support their county during this time, and as manufacturers have done during our history.”

AEM member companies can visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website to report how they can donate medical supplies and/or equipment. In addition, member companies can reach out directly to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Procurement Action Innovative Response (PAIR) team at DHSIndustryLiaison@hq.dhs.gov to provide non-medical goods and/or services.

Please help us keep track of what you are doing to support the COVID-19 relief efforts by emailing AEM Advisor Editor Mike Schmidt at mschmidt@aem.org. We will be highlighting
member companies’ efforts and sharing stories about the industry’s collective efforts in the coming weeks.

**Highlights from Yesterday’s Webinar on Paycheck Protection Program**

Yesterday, AEM hosted a webinar for member companies on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and tax relief provisions in the CARES Act, featuring Doug Criscitello, Managing Director, Public Sector, Grant Thornton, LLP, and Omair Taher, Senior Association, Washington National Tax Office, Grant Thornton, LLP. Messrs Criscitello and Taher walked through the eligibility and application requirements of these programs and answered questions from member companies.

Highlights from presentations include:

- **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**
  - The PPP is a fund of $349 billion to provide forgivable loans to small firms who retain their workers.
  - Eligible recipients may qualify for loan up to $10 million.
  - Loans are made by private financial institutions and are fully backed by the U.S. government.
  - There are approximately 6 million small firms in the U.S. with paid employees, and the expectation is that funds will be exhausted quickly.

- **Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Loan Advance Program**
  - This low-interest direct loan program includes $10,000 advance payment that does not need to be repaid, even if loan request is denied.
  - This loan cannot be used for same purpose as the PPP if both programs are used. (It is either one or the other.)

- **SBA Debt Relief**
  - This provides reprieve for firms with existing and new 7(a) loans.

- **SBA Express Bridge Loan Program**
  - This loan allows borrowers who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to $25,000 with less paperwork. This can bridge the gap while applying for a direct SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

You can access both the slides on the SBA loan assistance and the slides on the tax relief provisions presentations in our growing library of resources.

**Congressman Brindisi (D-N.Y.) to Hold Webinar on Paycheck Protection Program**

For those who are looking for additional information on the SBA’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), or missed AEM’s webinar, Congressman Anthony Brindisi (D-N.Y.) and the SBA are hosting a webinar on Thursday, April 9 at 12:00 p.m. ET on the PPP and Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small business. The webinar will cover what assistance is available, who is eligible, and the application process. Anyone interested should register online. Slides will be shared during the presentation.

**AEM Driving the News**

After calling on the federal government to create a national manufacturing strategy on Monday, and initial coverage by POLITICO, AEM’s leadership has been driving the news this week with
The Hill reporting on how AEM is pushing Congressional leaders and President Trump to mobilize the full force of the federal government to support the country’s manufacturing sector. The article quote’s AEM’s Kip Eideberg as saying: “We are urging President Trump to create a National Manufacturing Council as part of the national strategy on manufacturing so that he once again can receive a broad range of input from manufacturers regarding industry needs and suggestions for improving federal policies on manufacturing.” AEM’s efforts have also been covered widely by the trade media, including Construction Equipment, Agri-Marketing, Construction Equipment Guide, Mobile Hydraulic Tips, OEM Off-Highway, Farm Equipment, Ag Equipment Intelligence, Rural Lifestyle Dealer, and Trenchless Technology.

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) yesterday. They encouraged the general public to be cautious of cybersecurity threats. There has been an increase of scams and phishing related to the Payroll Protection Program and other assistance programs being offered by the federal government. There has also been an increase of scams and phishing for those who are teleworking and using online communications programs. If a business is interested in retooling their equipment to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE), there is an established working group within the Coronavirus Taskforce to help businesses through that process. If you are interested in receiving feedback and assistance from this working group, please reach out to cisa.cat@dhs.gov.

AEM Pushes USDA to Help Ethanol Producers Hurting from COVID-19
Ethanol producers purchase two out of every five bushels of corn, and they have been hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many ethanol producers have stopped all corn purchases, putting further downward pressure on commodity prices. AEM joined Growth Energy, Renewable Fuels Association, and the National Biodiesel Board in a letter to push USDA do their part to get ethanol plants up and running again.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Small Businesses
In communities across the United States, we are starting to see the impact COVID-19 on small businesses. AEM has prepared a presentation that dives into this issue, highlighting policy response, state and federal relief assistance, and some of the problems small business owners are facing. The presentation is part of AEM's growing library of resources to help member companies navigate this unprecedented crisis.

State Activities
AEM has been 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.”

Notable for today’s update is that the Governors of Colorado, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, and Rhode Island extended the duration of previous stay at home orders. The Governors of Connecticut, Illinois, and South issued additional guidance for essential businesses. The map below summarizes each state’s status. For all of the latest information, please visit our dedicated state by state tracker.

Map as of April 8
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, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced proposed changes to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy to make it more flexible, as negotiations continue with opposition parties as to when Parliament will be recalled. Minister of Finance Bill Morneau also announced that the federal government will refund CPP, QPP and EI premiums to businesses that qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy to ensure they do not face extra out of pocket expense.

The Prime Minister also announced temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program, making it more generous and extending the end date of the program to February 2021.

Ontario announced that they are extending construction hours for essential construction projects, like critical projects in the health care sector, to 24 hours a day. The province is also implementing a number of measures across essential workplaces in the province to ensure health and safety requirements are being respected. Quebec has announced that they are hopeful that they will be ready to announce a plan to reopen certain businesses in the coming days should positive trends continue. New Brunswick has announced that employers based in the province whose businesses have been impacted by COVID-19 can now apply to the provincial government for loans for working capital.

We continue to update our resources on Canadian activities on AEM’s COVID-19 resources page. You can also click here for the latest updates from Ottawa and all the provinces.
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

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