April 21, 2020

*** AEM is committed to providing you with the latest updates, information, and resources to help you navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the unfolding economic crisis. In order to keep these e-mail updates relevant and the information timely, we may adjust the frequency of the e-mails over the coming days and weeks. ***

The big news out of Washington today is that the White House and Congress have reached a deal on a new funding package that will replenish a lending program meant to aid small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The deal includes $310 billion for the Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), $60 billion of which is set aside for small lenders and community financial institutions, $75 billion for reimbursement to hospitals and healthcare providers to support the need for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue, and $25 billion for necessary expenses to research, develop, validate, manufacture, purchase, administer, and expand capacity for COVID-19 tests.

It is still possible that the U.S. Senate passes this today. First action by the U.S. House will most likely be on Thursday. A few House Republicans have signaled their opposition to a voice vote, so members of Congress will be returning to Washington for a roll call vote.

The bipartisan deal comes as AEM has been urging Congressional leaders to work together to replenish the PPP, including a letter by AEM president Dennis Slater to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.).

AEM also activated its 40,000 I Make America grassroots supporters to let lawmakers know that small and medium-sized equipment manufacturers are out of time and money and urge them to take decisive action this week.

Here are some of today’s other developments:

House Transportation and Infrastructure Leaders Pave the Way for Tweetstorm
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-Mo.) organized a tweetstorm today to thank the essential
workers that are keeping our country and essential goods and people moving during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the hashtag #ToThoseWhoKeepUsMoving, hundreds of elected officials, industry organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders took a moment to tweet a message of gratitude. AEM and I Make America shared their own messages, as well as some of our member companies, including Komatsu, Kondex, Stellar Industries, Vermeer, VSS Macropaver, and Woods Equipment.

The tweetstorm may be over, but you can still share your message using the hashtag #ToThoseWhoKeepUsMoving.

State Activities
AEM is closely 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 continue to be deemed “essential.”

Notable for today’s update is that the Governor of Pennsylvania extended the duration of the previous stay at home order. The Governor of Wisconsin announced the indicators needed before reopening the state, while the Governors of Colorado and Connecticut announced new health and safety protocols for all residents. The Governors of Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina announced the resumption of limited operations for certain businesses.

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 21, 2020

Stay-at-home orders/advisories  Closed bars and/or restaurants  Closed non-essential businesses


Canada Activities

The Canada Revenue Agency has launched a website with the details on how to apply for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Applications for the subsidy will open on April 27.

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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