April 22, 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.

In a unanimous vote yesterday, the Senate passed H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act by Unanimous Consent. As mentioned in yesterday’s update, the legislation provides more than $300 billion in additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program, $50 billion for the Small Business Administration’s Disaster Loans program, $10 billion for emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), $75 billion for hospitals, and $25 billion for coronavirus testing. Additionally, the bill clarifies that agricultural enterprises with fewer than 500 employees are eligible for the EIDL program. The legislation now moves to the House for consideration, where it is expected to pass tomorrow.

Here are other notable updates:

**Problem Solvers Propose Bipartisan Benchmarks for Economic Recovery**

As reported in *Roll Call*, The Problem Solvers Caucus has created a bipartisan checklist of public health benchmarks to kick start the economy, as well as policy proposals to help in that economic recovery. AEM has been a long-term supporter of the group’s 25 Republican and 25 Democratic lawmakers, and at our urging they included infrastructure on their checklist. In the press release announcing the checklist, the group states: “With zero percent interest rates and jobless claims continuing to rise, there is no better time than now to pass a comprehensive bipartisan infrastructure investment. As our economy reopens, we need to make it as easy as possible for our business to compete, a historic investment in our nation’s infrastructure will do just that.”

AEM will continue to work with the Problem Solvers Caucus, Congressional leaders, and the Trump administration to push for a significant investment in our nation’s infrastructure as part of the overall economy effort.

**AEM Monitoring Mexican Essential Business Guidance**

Equipment manufacturers are concerned that recent health emergency decrees issued by the Mexican Ministry of Health and state governments could shutdown manufacturing facilities and
vital cross-border supply chains. If your company has been or could be negatively impacted by these emergency decrees, please contact Alex Russ (aruss@aem.org) for further information and guidance.

**DOL Ends Non-Enforcement Period for Paid Leave Provisions in Relief Bill**
On Monday, the Department of Labor announced the end of the temporary period of non-enforcement of paid leave protections under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The non-enforcement period allowed DOL’s Wage and Hour Division to offer extensive guidance to employers covered by the new law to help them become compliant. Here are links to guidance materials on the requirements of the law: Q&A document, fact sheet for employees, fact sheet for employers, posters for employers, and an in-depth FFCRA webinar.

**ICYMI: Deere Makes Face Shields for Healthcare Workers Combatting COVID-19**
We’re continuing to highlight important and inspirational stories by our members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In our latest story, we highlight how Deere & Company teamed up with the UAW, IAM, Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Illinois Manufacturers’ Association in an effort to produce protective face shields for healthcare workers. If you have a story to share, please contact us at responseteam@aem.org.

**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 Alaska and Pennsylvania have extended the duration of their previous stay at home orders. The Governors of Colorado, Kentucky, Washington, and Wisconsin announced the indicators needed before reopening the state. The Governor of Connecticut announced new health and safety protocols for all residents. The Governors of Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina announced the resumption of limited business 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.
Canada Activities

Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced support of nearly $9 billion for post-secondary students and recent graduates. The federal government also announced that it will expand existing federal employment, skills development, and youth programming to create up to 116,000 jobs, placements, and other training opportunities to help students.

Premier Brian Pallister announced that the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba is returning a $37-million surplus to provide financial relief to eligible employers in the province. In May, eligible employers will receive a credit to their account based on 20 per cent of their 2019 premium.

Premier Dennis King announced that a phased-in approach to easing back on public health measures in Prince Edward Island could begin as early as May 1.

Premier Scott Moe is set to make a provincial address to the people of Saskatchewan tonight, prior to announcing the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan on Thursday, April 23.

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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