May 11, 2020

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are burning the quarantine midnight oil on the next phase of COVID-19 relief legislation per reports in this morning’s Politico Playbook. AEM’s Advocacy Team is in communication with congressional leadership as they continue to craft the bill, ensuring that they are aware of the challenges facing our industry and the type of support we would like to see included in the next round of relief. We will bring you the latest updates as they are made publicly available.

INCYMI: In today’s AEM Industry Advisor, Waukesha, Wisconsin-based Husco is featured for its work in leading a consortium of local businesses that have banded together to manufacture PPE for local first responders. The newsletter also features two upcoming webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture and construction industries.

Finally, as federal and state governments turn their attention to reopening, we have compiled the latest and greatest on reopening plans into a presentation highlighted below.

Here are some of the day’s other developments:

**Transportation Industry Leaders Launch Campaign for Infrastructure Investment**

The [Transportation Construction Coalition](https://www.transconstructioncoalition.org) (TCC) has launched an advertising and grassroots campaign to encourage Congress to make an investment in infrastructure. The campaign, which includes cable TV ads, digital TV ads, Facebook ads, and digital ads, is targeting Capitol Hill lawmakers and their staffs as they continue to provide solutions to American families and businesses who are suffering as a result of COVID-19. As a member of TCC’s executive committee, AEM has long called for a significant infrastructure investment, especially long-term funding that will secure the Highway Trust Fund through inflation and other economic changes.

**USDA Approves $1.2 Billion in Contracts for Farmers to Families Food Box Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today approved $1.2 billion in contracts to support American producers and communities in need through the [USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program](https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmers-to-families). Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said of the program: “This is a new, innovative approach to provide critical support to American farmers and families, and USDA moved as expeditiously as federal procurement rules allow to stand up the program and solicit offers.” [More information about the Farmers to Families Food Box Program can be found on USDA’s website.](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/2020/05/11/usda-approves-1-2-billion-contracts-support-farmers-families)
Husco Leads Consortium to Manufacture Masks for Local First Responders
As part of the AEM Industry Advisor’s series profiling member companies responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, we look at Husco’s efforts to help their local community. The Waukesha, Wisconsin-based manufacturer of high performance hydraulic and electro-mechanical components is leading MaskForce, a consortium of Wisconsin businesses and like-minded individuals looking to give back. MaskForce has manufactured personal protective equipment (PPE) for local first responders on the front lines of the pandemic. Husco CEO Austin Ramirez said of the consortium’s work, “MaskForce is both an example of American manufacturing ingenuity and the good that can be accomplished when multiple stakeholders collaborate to serve the community.” Read the profile.

AEM Webinars Tackle COVID-19’s Economic Impact on Ag, Construction
In an effort to support its members as they continue to navigate COVID-19, AEM is pleased to offer a pair of informative webinars to provide timely, relevant and impactful information during these challenging times. The webinars are set to take place in the coming days. Specific dates, times and details related to topics and presenters can be found on AEM’s website.

State Activities
AEM has been monitoring activities taken by Governors as they continue to issue closure and reopening orders. We are in close contact with their staff to make the case that our industry is establishing health and safety protocols to protect both employees and customers.

Notable for today’s update is that the Governor of Mississippi extended the closure order. The Governor of Rhode Island announced the resumption of limited operations for certain businesses in the coming days.
Now that state governments are transitioning into re-opening strategies, we are providing a new U.S. map showing when state shelter-in-place orders and stay-at-home advisories expire.

For all of the latest information, please visit our dedicated state by state tracker.

Canada Activities
Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced further support for medium and large Canadian businesses. The announcement includes the following measures:

- Establishing the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) to provide bridge financing to Canada’s largest employers;
- Expanding the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs; and
- Continuing to provide financing to businesses through Farm Credit Canada, the BDC, and EDC.

Further information about the application process for the LEEFF will be available in the near future.

Today’s updates from the province include:

- **British Columbia:** The province has announced infrastructure investments in the North of the province to support resource and economic development.
- **Newfoundland and Labrador**: The province has announced that it is removing certain public health measures to permit certain business activities to resume.

- **Ontario**: The province is set to reconvene its legislature tomorrow to extend its state of emergency to June 2. Over the weekend the province allowed the reopening of a range of retail stores.

- **Quebec**: The province highlighted the reopening of manufacturing businesses and construction sites.

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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