May 18, 2020

This past Friday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, the HEROES Act, Democrats’ $3 trillion coronavirus response package. The bill passed largely along party lines by a margin of 208-199, with only one Republican voting in favor and 14 Democrats voting against the legislation. The bill is not expected to be considered by the United States Senate. As the coronavirus recession shows few signs of slowing down, we are encouraging congressional leaders to get back to the negotiating table. Additional relief legislation will help small and medium-sized businesses keep the doors open, put food on the tables of millions of American families, and jumpstart the economy. AEM’s Advocacy Team continues its work on this critical issue with both lawmakers and the White House.

In today’s update, we also bring you the latest on the Paycheck Protection Program. Last week, the Small Business Administration released the application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) borrowers to submit as they seek “forgiveness” for part or all of their PPP loan.

Finally, mark your calendar as the Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) is hosting a virtual briefing this Thursday with the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Infrastructure and Transportation. Keep scrolling for more details and information on how to register below.

Here are some of the other developments:

**Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Application Released**

On Friday, the U.S. Small Business Administration released the [application](#) for borrowers to submit in seeking loan forgiveness through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Borrowers must complete the form and submit through their lender. Currently borrowers are eligible for loan forgiveness for payroll costs of up to eight weeks, as well as certain mortgage and rent obligations.

The PPP was established by the CARES Act to help small businesses keep their doors open and their employees paid during the COVID-19 pandemic. AEM staff is currently monitoring efforts by lawmakers to improve upon guidance offered through the application, as well as changes that could give businesses more flexibility in how and when they spend their loan.
Transportation Construction Coalition Virtual Washington Briefing
On Thursday, the Transportation Construction Coalition will host a virtual briefing to address the status of current pandemic relief and recovery efforts and infrastructure legislation in Congress, as well as the status of reauthorization of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which expires Sept. 30.

The briefing is being held in lieu of the annual fly-in, which was cancelled as a result of the ongoing pandemic, will feature Senator John Barasso (R-Wyo.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (confirmed), Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (confirmed), Representative Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (confirmed), and Representative Sam Graves (R-Mo.), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (invited). For those interested in participating, please use this registration link.

For more information, please contact Kate Fox Wood, Senior Director, Government Relations, at kfoxwood@aem.org.

ICYMI: How COVID-19 is Changing How Companies Communicate
In today’s edition of the AEM Industry Advisor, David Ward has a new blog post on the changing dynamics of internal and external communication. In the era of social distancing, equipment manufacturers have been forced to re-think how they communicate with employees, suppliers, customers, and their broader community. Read David’s blog post here.

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 New Jersey announced a phased plan towards lifting the state’s closure order. The Governors of California, Kansas, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania announced the resumption of limited operations for certain businesses in the coming days. The Governor of Michigan announced new operating guidance and information for businesses, and also announced a resumption of limited operations for certain businesses in part of the state. The Governors of Louisiana, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington published important guidance and information for businesses.
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
AEM will be providing our next Canada update on Wednesday. We hope everyone is having a safe and wonderful Victoria Day weekend.

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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