May 27, 2020

I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful holiday weekend as we honored America’s bravest on Memorial Day.

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives returns to consider a number of legislative actions, including a bipartisan bill to eliminate restrictions and make fixes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). We’ve got the latest on that below along with the chances of it passing.

On the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, President Trump met today with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo at the White House to discuss infrastructure investment. After the meeting, Governor Cuomo said he wants to use infrastructure investment to help rebuild the economy, while rebuilding our nation’s roads and bridges. CBS New York affiliate WLNY reports Cuomo said, “You want to supercharge the reopening? That’s how you do it. We’re still living on the infrastructure built by our grandparents, not even our parents.” We’ll keep you updated if we see any more movement from lawmakers on the infrastructure front.

Here are some of the day’s other developments:

**Congressional Update**
The House is "in session" this week with committees holding virtual hearings and an expected proxy vote on the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act, H.R. 6886. The bill attempts to make several improvements to the Paycheck Protection Program and eliminate several restrictions that were causing issues among small businesses. The bipartisan measure, sponsored by Representatives Dean Phillips (D-Minn.) and Chip Roy (R-T.X.) is expected to pass.

**AEM Joins Coalition Focused on Creating Recovery Fund**
AEM recently joined an organization called the America’s Recovery Fund Coalition (AFRC). The group is comprised of over 60 industry groups and was formed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to advocate for a grant-based federal assistance program to power the recovery of American businesses. This coalition is urging Congress to create a broad-based, efficient recovery fund to provide rapid liquidity to businesses impaired by the COVID-19 national emergency. The fund would be designed to help businesses maintain ongoing capital obligations during the prolonged crisis. Members of the coalition include retail, restaurants, theaters, gyms, salons, real estate, financial services, construction and equipment suppliers —
representing nearly 58 million American workers. More details can be found on the Coalition’s website.

ICYMI: How COVID-19 is Affecting Supply Chains of OEMs, and What They Can Do to Assess and Adjust
There’s not a sector of the economy that COVID-19 hasn’t impacted. In the manufacturing sector, working from home is, largely, an unavailable work system. While laptops travel home easily, CNC machining centers, hydraulic presses, blast furnaces and pneumatic tool systems do not, to say nothing of getting parts and products from station to station. AEM’s Justin Metzger spoke with AEM member Supply Dynamics, Inc. to learn how they are reacting and responding to supply chain disruptions. Read the profile.

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 Governors of Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Virginia announced the resumption of limited operations for certain businesses in the coming days. The Governor of Kansas announced a transition of her reopening plan to recommendations, not Executive Orders. The Governors of Iowa and Michigan published important guidance and information for businesses.

Some states have started to reopen parts of the state for business

Which states are reopening?
AS OF MAY 27, 2020

- Partial reopening
- Order lifting or reopening soon
- Shut down or restricted

Ten states did not implement stay-at-home orders until April 1 or later

Sources: New York Times
*The WI Stay at Home order was nullified via court order.
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
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced that he intends to work with the provinces to ensure that workers have access to 10 days of paid sick leave, in response to calls from the New Democratic Party.

Today’s highlights from the provinces include:

- **Alberta**: The legislature has resumed to begin to debate government legislation.
- **Manitoba**: The province has announced that it has finalized the draft Phase Two plan of its reopening.
- **New Brunswick**: The province has announced it is not moving forward with the property tax reductions proposed in their Budget due to the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Ontario**: The province has announced it has extended its emergency orders until June 9.

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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