June 22, 2020

After some pressure from congressional leaders, the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Treasury Department have reached a deal with Senate Small Business Committee leaders Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Ben Cardin (D-Md.) to disclose information about certain Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) recipients. The names of companies and non-profits who received $150,000 or more from the PPP will be disclosed, along with other identifying information. The exact loan amounts will not be disclosed, but rather shared within a certain range. This comes after leaders from both parties raised concerns over the transparency and oversight of the program.

The SBA and the Treasury Department continue to listen to feedback from Congress and small business owners on how the PPP is, or isn’t, working. Many small businesses struggled to find a lender to work with, so to address that problem, the SBA launched Lender Match. This tool is designed to help small businesses connect with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs), Certified Development Companies (CDCs), Farm Credit System lenders, Microlenders, as well as traditional smaller asset size lenders in the PPP.

And to wrap up today’s highlights, we are pleased to announce the launch of “Equipped to Vote,” a digital campaign to educate, engage, and mobilize our industry’s 2.8 million men and women. This first-of-its-kind initiative for the industry takes the place of AEM’s “Manufacturing Express,” which has been reschedule until 2021. More details, including how to get involved and help us make some noise this year, below.

Here are today’s developments:

**AEM Launches “Equipped to Vote” Campaign**

Today AEM announced the launch of “Equipped to Vote,” a full-fledged digital campaign designed to engage, educate, and mobilize the 2.8 million men and women of the equipment manufacturing industry leading up to the general election this fall. The goal of the campaign is to educate supporters on the policies that matter to the industry, encourage greater civic engagement, and help elect pro-manufacturing candidates.

AEM has been closely monitoring the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the health and safety of the industry top of mind, AEM has postponed the “2020
Manufacturing Express” until 2021. A new launch date will be announced later in the year. The “Equipped to Vote” campaign, designed to give a voice to the 2.8 million men and women of the association during the election, will be the central focus for the association until the “Manufacturing Express” hits the road. Read more about this new initiative.

If you would like to join us and help make sure that manufacturing is front-and-center this election year, then please contact my colleague Wade Balkonis (wbalkonis@aem.org).

AEM Calls for Bipartisan Work on Surface Transportation Reauthorization
Today AEM’s Dennis Slater, sent a letter to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves, commending the Committee for moving the surface transportation reauthorization forward. The letter praises many aspects of the INVEST in America Act and encourages the inclusion of aspects of the STARTER act, the Republican replacement bill, such as streamlined permitting, as the bill continues through the House.

The letter further emphasizes that AEM and its members “remain eager to support the bicameral, bipartisan process that must take place to secure a sustainable, long-term funding source for the federal highway program and advance sound infrastructure policy which supports economic recovery efforts from the coronavirus pandemic and beyond. This effort requires cooperation between Democrats and Republicans, as well as engagement from the White House. It is the process that has always characterized successful multi-year reauthorizations of the federal surface transportation program. With so much at stake, now is not the time for partisanship. Equipment manufacturers, their employees, customers, sector partners and communities depend on policymakers to get this right before the FAST Act expires later this year.”

The House and Senate each have a highway bill that has passed through Committee. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last July passed America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA) unanimously, and just last week, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act along a party line vote. While the House bill covers a broader range of programs than the Senate bill, we wanted to share a chart comparing certain topics within each bill including bill length, funding levels, permitting, workforce development, and rural elements.

SBA Rolls Out Online Tool to Help Small Businesses Connect with CDFIs, Small Asset Lenders Participating in PPP
The Small Business Administration announced the roll out of Lender Match, a tool designed for small businesses and non-profits to be matched with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs), Certified Development Companies (CDCs), Farm Credit System lenders, Microlenders, as well as traditional smaller asset size
lenders in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This is an additional resource for small businesses who have not yet received or applied for a PPP loan. Read more about Lender Match.

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, New York, and Pennsylvania 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
New Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem used his first speech in the role to point out the long-term economic damage as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has committed to low, stable, and predictable inflation guiding the Bank’s response to the pandemic. The interest rate remains at 0.25%, which is aimed to help support spending and borrowing as business reopen, so demand can return to normal over time. The bank is buying at least $5 billion of Canadian government bonds a week until the recovery is well underway.
Today’s updates from the provinces include:

- **Ontario**: The province moved the Toronto and Peel regions into Stage Two, which will allow more re-openings. Only Windsor-Essex in Ontario remains under Stage One. Premier Ford took a tough tone with farmers in the region that he sees as not cooperating in getting migrant workers tested for COVID-19.

**Quebec, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan** have also continued with a loosening of restrictions.

We continue to update our resources on Canadian activities on [AEM’s COVID-19 resources page](https://aem.org/covid-19-resources). You can also click here for the latest updates from [Ottawa and all the provinces](https://aem.org/ottawa-and-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](mailto: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](mailto:keideberg@aem.org).

Best,
-Kip

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