As we continue to see spikes in COVID-19 cases in hot spots across the country, state and federal lawmakers are calling on Americans to wear face masks when leaving their homes. During an interview on ABC’s “This Week,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) shared that she believes a national mask mandate is “long overdue.” And House GOP Conference Chairwoman Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) tweeted a photo of her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, donning a mask as a way to encourage others to do so, too.

This week, the U.S. House of Representatives is beginning to consider H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. The $1.5 trillion infrastructure package was crafted by House Democrats, and House Republicans have complained they had no say during the drafting process. House Transportation and Infrastructure Member Rodney Davis (R-Ill.) said the few Republican amendments included during last week’s mark-up were a “small victory for bipartisanship.”

Later in the week, we’re looking forward to the implementation of the U.S.-Canada-Mexico Agreement, the new trade agreement that will replace the decades-old North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

As a reminder, tomorrow, June 30 is the last day to apply for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. For those of you who have not applied, we encourage you to consider doing so if your company finds itself in need of federal assistance.

Here are some of today’s other news and developments:

**CEO Survey: “The Industry Has a Long and Uncertain Road Back to Normal”**

Our second CEO survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on equipment manufacturers and the economy continues to drive news coverage about the state of the industry and another round of coronavirus relief. I spoke with Julie Mason, host of “The Press Pool” on SiriusXM radio’s POTUS channel, about how the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge equipment manufacturers of all sizes and what the federal government should do to support our industry and get our economy roaring again.

As I told Julie, "Tax revenue has dried up. If [Congress] could figure out a way to bridge that, so that states and localities can start putting infrastructure projects back online, we’ll see an uptick
in demand for equipment, and the industry will be better equipped to weather the storm. The onus is clearly on Congress to do something."

You can listen to the full interview here.

We have created a 1-pager that highlights the key findings of the survey, and will use this and a suite of graphics and other resources to educate reporters, Congressional staffers, White House staff, industry partners, I Make America grassroots supporters, and the general public about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our industry.

House Rules Considers House Dems Infrastructure Package
Today, in preparation for moving it to the floor for a vote later this week, the House Rules Committee took up the $1.5 trillion infrastructure package proposed by Democrats, the Moving Forward Act, H.R. 2. Included in this package is a five-year surface transportation program reauthorization of nearly $500 billion. The Rules Committee will be sifting through over 350 amendments that have been offered by Democrats and Republicans.

A few things that AEM staff will be on the lookout for in a final package when it hits the House floor include:

- Inclusion of the AEM-endorsed Universal Broadband Act, H.R. 6723 sponsored by U.S. Representative Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) and Don Young (R-Alaska). AEM led a letter of industry partners to congressional leadership in support of including H.R. 6723 in the final package.

- Inclusion of the Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act, H.R. 2831, which promotes industry or sector partnerships that engage in collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple businesses, for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by targeted infrastructure industries, including energy, construction, information technology, utilities, and transportation, in order to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement.

- Codification of the One Federal Decision policy for NEPA authorizations, in order to shorten the timeline for permit approvals and streamline the application process.

At the time this update was drafted, the committees’ proceedings were just getting underway. A full update including AEM activities on H.R. 2 will be included in Wednesday’s e-mail update.

If you have any questions, please contact AEM Senior Director of Government Relations Kate Fox Wood at kfoxwood@aem.org.

Ready or Not: USMCA To Take Effect Wednesday, July 1
Implementation of the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will take effect Wednesday. As companies prepare for the new agreement to enter into force, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency created the following website to help businesses
navigate the new rules and regulations. While most expect things to go smoothly, the White House recently threatened to reimpose tariffs on Canadian aluminum if Canada does not self-impose quotas on their aluminum exports to the U.S. Negotiations on this issue are ongoing.

**Last Call: Paycheck Protection Program**

The deadline for qualifying businesses to apply for a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is tomorrow, June 30. For a snapshot of how the PPP has performed to date, check out the [latest report](#) from the U.S. Small Business Administration. As of Friday, 4.7 million loans had been issued, administering a total of nearly $519 billion dollars. The construction and manufacturing sectors netted 12 percent and 10 percent of those loans respectively. There is still nearly $134 billion available for borrowers to capitalize on by tomorrow’s deadline.

**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 California announced the closure of certain businesses. The Governors of Mississippi and Washington announced extensions of their current reopening phases. The Governor of Nevada published important guidance for businesses.

As state governments are announcing strategies for re-opening their economies, we are providing a U.S. map that shows state shelter-in-place orders and stay-at-home advisories.

![Map showing states reopening](#)
For all of the latest information, please visit our dedicated state by state tracker.

Canada Activities
Federally, COVID-19 briefings will be reduced to twice per week, although daily statements will still be released. Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the federal government will be working with the provinces and territories to extend the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program by another month, to include July.

Today’s highlights from the provinces include:
- **Alberta**: Premier Jason Kenney announced Alberta’s economic recovery plan on June 29, which will include a record $10 billion in public infrastructure spending, along with a two percent reduction in the corporate tax rate. A new investment agency and incentives for industry are also being offered. Further details are being released in the coming days.
- **Ontario**: The province has extended Emergency Orders until July 10.

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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