July 9, 2020

PROGRAMMING NOTE: These updates will move to a Tuesday/Thursday schedule for the month of July and will include updates on our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as our ongoing advocacy efforts in support of our member companies.

The White House rolled out its red carpet yesterday, welcoming Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to commemorate the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which went into force on July 1. The trip marks the first foreign visit for López Obrador since being elected in 2018.

In other good news for our industry, yesterday AEM saluted U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-Mich.) as he announced the introduction of the National Institute of Manufacturing Act, which will help streamline and strengthen federal manufacturing programs. You may recall that AEM was the first group to call for a comprehensive national manufacturing strategy, and we are proud to continue working with Sen. Peters to make this legislation a reality.

As our Advocacy Team continues its work to push for a national manufacturing strategy, infrastructure investment, and other key policy priorities for the industry, we invite you to join us for “Equipped to Vote,” a first-of-its-kind digital campaign designed to engage the 2.8 million hardworking men and women of the industry ahead of the 2020 election.

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

AEM Applauds Legislation to Strengthen Manufacturing in America

Yesterday, U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-Mich.) introduced the National Institute of Manufacturing Act. The legislation will significantly raise the profile of manufacturing in the federal government, increase efficiencies and collaboration across existing federal manufacturing programs, reduce wasteful spending, and improve the ability and accountability of the federal government to respond to rapid changes in the global manufacturing landscape. Specifically, it will also create a central hub for all federal manufacturing programs, establish a Chief Manufacturing Officer (CMO) responsible for developing and carrying out a national manufacturing strategy, and form a National Manufacturing Council to provide non-partisan advice to the President on how to strengthen the manufacturing sector. AEM was the first group to call for a comprehensive national strategy for manufacturing this past April and is now
working Sen. Peters and others on a bipartisan effort to move the legislation forward. Read more about the legislation and AEM’s efforts.

Join AEM’s “Equipped to Vote” Digital Campaign
On June 22, AEM announced it will be launching a new digital initiative to engage voters ahead of the November election. “Equipped to Vote,” AEM’s digital 2020 election initiative, will engage, educate, and mobilize the men and women of the equipment manufacturing industry and their communities and encourage them to learn about our policy priorities, get involved in the election, and help strengthen equipment manufacturing in America. This year’s election is a critically important opportunity to bring AEM member companies together to raise the profile of our industry, elevate our policy priorities, and rally our supporters to elect pro-manufacturing candidates. This digital campaign will replace the 2020 Manufacturing Express, which is being rescheduled for next year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

With just a few short weeks until the August launch date for the campaign, and with more than 30 member companies already signed up to be part of this important initiative, I am asking all of you to join us to make some noise on behalf of the equipment manufacturing industry this summer and make a big difference this fall. Please reach out to my colleague Wade Balkonis (wbalkonis@aem.org) to learn more and to sign up today.

Trump Welcomes Mexican President to Celebrate USMCA
Yesterday, President Trump and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador met in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the entry into force of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement which took effect on July 1. The pair signed a joint declaration to celebrate the moment. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was not in attendance due to concerns about possible steel and aluminum tariffs recently floated by the Trump Administration, cabinet business, the sitting of Parliament, and concerns relating to the coronavirus.

House Appropriations Subcommittee Funds DOT and HUD for FY2021
House appropriators on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee passed the spending bill for fiscal year 2021 yesterday by voice vote, despite Republican lawmakers’ concerns that the designation of some of the funds as emergency was inappropriate. We can expect a full committee vote next week. The legislation provides $107.2 billion for the Department of Transportation (DOT) for fiscal year 2021, and is largely in line with funding levels in the House passed infrastructure package, H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act.

Highlights of the T-HUD appropriations bill include:
- $1 billion for the BUILD grant program
- $3.35 billion for Airport Improvement Program grants, plus $500 million from the general fund for discretionary grants
- $61 billion for highways, plus $1 billion from the general fund for highway infrastructure programs
• $2 billion for Amtrak
• $500 million for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grants
• $200 million for Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair grants
• $15.9 billion for transit formula grants, plus $510 million from the general fund for transit infrastructure grants
• $2.2 billion for FTA’s Capital Investment Grants program, and
• $300 million for port infrastructure grants.

The bill separately includes emergency funding to allow DOT to strengthen infrastructure in the wake of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This funding includes:

• $3 billion for the BUILD grant program
• $2.5 billion for discretionary airport grants
• $5 billion for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grants
• $8 billion for Amtrak
• $5 billion for the Capital Investment Grants program
• $1 billion for port infrastructure grants

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 Connecticut, New Jersey, and Washington announced extensions of their current reopening phases. The Governors of Kentucky and Ohio published important guidance for businesses.

With state governments announcing pausing or reversing of reopening plans, we are providing a U.S. map that shows how each state is altering or continuing with reopening plans.
For all of the latest information, please visit our dedicated state by state tracker.

**Canada Activities**

Finance Minister Bill Morneau presented a “fiscal snapshot” on July 8 that was mostly a look at actions that have already been taken to date. Morneau promised to provide another update, potentially in the form of a budget, in the fall. The snapshot pointed to a $343 billion deficit projection for 2020-21, the biggest since WWII. The government will soon announce changes to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) to stimulate rehiring, provide support to businesses during reopening, and help them adapt to the new normal.

Updates from the provinces include:

- **British Columbia**: The province has extended its state of emergency to end of day on July 21.

- **Ontario**: The provincial government has extended all emergency orders currently in force to July 22. Ontario has also announced a large piece of legislation entitled COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020. The legislation touches on many provincial acts, including but not limited to: Building Code Act, Drainage Act, Environmental Assessment Act, Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act, Reducing Regulatory Costs to Business Act, Burden Reduction Reporting Act and Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, Transit-Oriented Communities Act and Ministry of Infrastructure Act, Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, and Environmental Assessment Act.
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](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

Kip Eideberg  
Senior Vice President, Government & Industry Relations  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers