

2017 AEM Top Legislative Priorities



Infrastructure Investment



STATUS

Congress most recently passed a five-year extension of highway project funding through 2020, adding needed certainty to the highway construction industry. Congress also extended water infrastructure spending, though it must still pass a long-term aviation infrastructure bill. In addition, Congress has not addressed the underlying question of how the HTF or other infrastructure programs are funded, and will have to tackle the issue in the coming years. The Trump administration has indicated that it may push for a broad but unspecified infrastructure package at the outset of its tenure in the White House.

POSITION

AEM urges the new Trump administration and leaders in Congress to pass a robust infrastructure investment package that addresses persistent shortfalls in our transportation infrastructure system. AEM supports a variety of other types of infrastructure investments that will help rebuild the foundation of America's economy and spur manufacturing growth. AEM believes that long-term, sustainable infrastructure investment should be part of any effort to reform the U.S. tax code.

BACKGROUND

The strength of America's infrastructure depends on federal support for several programs that provide for the bulk of infrastructure investment projects. Programs like the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), which is the predominant vehicle for supporting federal investment in road and bridge construction, maintenance and repair projects, depend on continued support from Congress, so that their funding sources and budgets keep pace with our nation's current infrastructure needs.

Tax Policy



STATUS

Congress may address corporate tax reform in 2017, building on a GOP tax blueprint that calls for cutting taxes for corporations, passthrough businesses, and most individuals; adopting a territorial system for taxing foreign-source income of U.S. multinationals; and moving the U.S. toward a cash-flow tax system without adopting an explicit consumption levy such as a national sales tax or value-added tax. President Trump, Speaker Ryan and Chairman Brady have all indicated that comprehensive tax reform is a top policy priority this year.

BACKGROUND

AEM's tax policy agenda is centered around a number of issues of particular importance to equipment manufacturers, including the corporate tax rate, bonus depreciation and capital expensing, the estate tax, agriculture equipment depreciation, the R&D tax credit and specific provisions of the international tax code. At the same time, AEM actively assesses the prospects for an overhaul of our nation's tax system, which with extremely high rates, a host of temporary provisions and out-of-date international rules, has created an uncertain environment that undermines equipment manufacturers' ability to compete and succeed in the global marketplace.

POSITION

AEM believes that comprehensive tax reform is essential to unleashing the economic power of equipment manufacturing, and making the United States the best place in the world to manufacture and attract foreign direct investment. While AEM is a strong advocate for comprehensive reform of our current tax code, it is essential that any such effort results in a balanced, fiscally responsible plan that allows equipment manufacturers in the United States to prosper, grow and create jobs that enhance their global competitiveness.

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Expanding Global Opportunities for Equipment Manufacturers

BACKGROUND

Equipment manufacturers of all sizes and sectors trade with the world to find new customers, grow jobs domestically and improve our country's competitiveness in an increasingly interconnected economy. Currently, 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside the borders of the United States. Equipment manufacturers need policies and trade agreements in place that help us reach these consumers and compete successfully in an increasingly tough global economy.

STATUS

AEM is working directly with member companies to identify barriers to trade and advocate for U.S. and foreign trade policies beneficial to our industry. AEM is also educating the incoming Trump administration and leaders in Congress on the substantial benefits of international trade in order to help expand the industry's growth in key markets around the world.

POSITION

AEM supports bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that break down tariffs and other trade barriers facing equipment that is exported to foreign markets.

Renewable Fuel Standard



BACKGROUND

AEM has adopted a comprehensive energy policy statement that addresses domestic energy production, including conventional and renewable fuels with a focus on implementing the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) as Congress intended.

STATUS

Equipment manufacturers welcomed news that the EPA would set a Renewable Fuel Standard for 2017 at the levels first specified in the law by Congress. AEM will continue to educate the new Trump administration and leaders in Congress about the importance of the RFS for equipment manufacturers, and work to advance efforts to expand fueling infrastructure.

POSITION

AEM supports the Renewable Fuel Standard as enacted by Congress and urges EPA to continue to follow the law as written.

Service Information Bills



BACKGROUND

In several states, lawmakers have introduced legislation that would require manufacturers and dealers to make proprietary "service information" available to third party repair facilities and machinery end-users.

STATUS

Some states have advanced these so-called "right to repair" bills, while others have engaged in preliminary consideration of similar laws.

POSITION

AEM, in coordination with manufacturing dealer associations, has sought to educate state lawmakers about the consequences of making competitive and proprietary service information widely available. AEM has also sought to educate lawmakers about the roles dealers play in sales and maintenance of equipment.

Export-Import Bank



BACKGROUND

The U.S. Export-Import Bank is the national export credit agency. Since 1932, it has provided export credit and insurance to U.S. manufacturers. The bank has supported billions on U.S. exports and generates revenue for the U.S. Treasury.

STATUS

The Export-Import Bank was reauthorized by Congress in late 2015.

POSITION

AEM is a leading advocate for the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, and continues to urge lawmakers to take steps to ensure the bank's board is adequately staffed in order to carry out the bank's core mission.