

CMA Weekly Update



CMA Weekly Update – February 11, 2022

Like many of you, we continue to monitor the ongoing situation at the U.S.-Canada Border. The NAM spoke out on the issue yesterday in a joint [statement](#) with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable. We will hold a member call **this afternoon at 2:30 p.m.** to provide an update and get member feedback on how the disruption is affecting manufacturing operations. Staff from CMA Members can register [here](#).

Key Issues

What's in the U.S. Competitiveness Bills Congress Passed? There are important provisions in the America COMPETES Act, which the House of Representatives passed last week, as well as the overwhelmingly bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), which the Senate passed last June. There is much to celebrate in the bill including provisions on International Climate Accountability, Technology and Innovation, Intellectual Property Protection, and Supply Chain Resiliency.

Still, some key components of the legislation require fixes that need to be addressed in the final bill. These include the following:

Employee Rights

- Harmful labor and card check provisions were added at the last minute in the America COMPETES Act; these provisions should be eliminated, and the NAM is working aggressively to remove this threat to manufacturing workplaces.

Trade

- As it stands, the America COMPETES Act “would significantly—and in our view, potentially arbitrarily—limit the ability of manufacturers to import certain products under the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill,” said NAM Vice President of International Economic Affairs Ken Monahan. The NAM is also “urging MTB retroactivity back to Jan. 1, 2021, when the previous MTB expired.”
- While the NAM supports holding countries such as China accountable for unfair and illegitimate trade, the America COMPETES Act imposes restrictions on so-called de minimis treatment that helps facilitate low-value imports, which “is not the right approach,” said Monahan.

- The America COMPETES Act does not contain language to address concerns related to the Section 301 tariff-exclusion process. Congress should amend the legislation to “reinstate Section 301 tariff exclusion processes and improve upon the Section 301 tariff exclusion review process,” said Monahan.

The NAM continues to work to ensure lawmakers negotiate and reach agreement on a final, bipartisan U.S. competitiveness bill that supports manufacturing workers while meeting the needs of the industry.

White House Task Force Releases Pro-Union Report on Worker Organizing Earlier this week, the White House released an expansive report on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, outlining nearly 70 recommendations that “promote worker organizing and collective bargaining for public and private sector employees.” The report’s recommendations mirror provisions in the [Protecting the Right to Organize \(PRO\) Act](#) —pro-union legislation staunchly [opposed by the NAM](#) which passed the House last March, but has not moved since. With the PRO Act stalled on Capitol Hill indefinitely, expect the President to continue exercising his executive power to push his labor agenda.

Labor Department Launches Warehouse and Logistics Worker Initiative Citing increased demand and the constraints on the global supply chain, the Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD) [announced](#) a new Warehouse and Logistics Worker Initiative designed to protect wages and workplace rights of delivery drivers, truck drivers, and others. Notably, in addition to ensuring the workers are “paid minimum and overtime wages, safe from workplace harassment and retaliation, and permitted to take leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA),” the initiative will also target alleged misclassification of employees as independent contractors—asserting this to be a “common occurrence” in these industries. The WHD intends to use education, outreach, and vigorous enforcement to accomplish the initiative’s goals.

CMA Member Highlights

- Philip Bell, CMA Chair and President and CEO of the **Steel Manufacturers Association**, [spoke](#) with CEO Update about the initiative he is excited to lead with CMA this year.
- The **American Cleaning Association’s** newly released economic impact survey finds the industry supports 700,000 jobs and adds nearly \$200 billion to the economy. Read more from the survey, prepared by the M.I.’s Center for Manufacturing Research and Inforum, [here](#).
- Congrats to the **Association for Manufacturing Technology** (AMT) on the launch of their new publication, [MT Magazine](#).

The NAM provides this weekly update with key content for our association partners. This is also a platform to highlight work of our CMA partners. [Shoot us a note](#) on any initiatives or messages that your organization has launched that we can share with others.

Coming up

February 11: [Member Call on the Canada Ambassador Bridge Blockade](#) (2:30 p.m. – 3:30

p.m. eastern) The NAM will host a member call to discuss the disruptions due to the blockade at the Detroit-Windsor Ambassador Bridge between the United States and Canada, as well as disruptions at other crossings. NAM International Economic Affairs Vice President Ken Monahan and NAM Director of Trade Facilitation Policy Ali Aafedt will provide an update on the ongoing situation and there will be an opportunity for members to share perspectives on the impact of the blockade on manufacturing operations in the United States and across the region.

February 18: [D&I Roundtable: How to Engage & Leverage Historically Black Colleges & Universities \(HBCUs\)](#) (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. eastern)

February 24: [NAM Food & Beverage Industry Group Meeting](#) (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. eastern)

March 1: **CMA CEO Roundtable** (3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. eastern) Please save the date for our first roundtable of the year. Registration details forthcoming.

March 24: [Quarterly Economic Update for Manufacturers](#) (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. eastern)

August 10-12: [CMA Summer Leadership Conference](#) (The Cloister Resort, Sea Island, GA)
Early bird registration is open now.

Leadership Reads (and Listens)

A weekly round-up of leadership, operations and productivity articles, podcasts, and micro-learning opportunities.

- [Your Focus is More Scattered Now...How to Get it Back](#) *Fast Company* (10-minute read)
- [Why It's Getting Harder For Young Professionals To Stay Mentally Healthy](#) *Forbes* (10-minute read)
- [5 Podcasts for Leaders Looking to Build an Inclusive Workplace](#) *Inc* (5-minute read)

Also Trending...

Love is in the air and the CMA community has some unique ways of celebrating Valentine's Day. Guess which association celebrates a [warm heart and a cold chain](#)? Who has a [page](#) dedicated to Valentine treats? And one of you [shares](#) why our favorite treats may be AWOL.

If you're looking for something special for your valentine, parentine or just looking to treat yourself, here are some ideas for [DC](#), [Chicago](#) and [virtual](#) celebrations. Enjoy!