Key Issues

- **Paycheck Protection Program:** The Small Business Administration has issued a new loan forgiveness application form for Paycheck Protection Program borrowers that received a loan of $50,000 or less. The new form is designed to make the process easier and only requires attestation that businesses complied with the terms of the program rather than the calculations and documentation required of larger borrowers. You can view the new forgiveness application form here.

- **OSHA:** You’re invited to join an NAM Coffee and Conversation with Loren Sweatt, the head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 2:00 p.m. EDT. The discussion will focus on OSHA’s enforcement priorities as manufacturers continue to operate during the public health crisis. It will be relevant for manufacturers of all sizes in every sector that are working to ensure compliance with federal health and safety standards. You can sign up today. This meeting is for NAM members only.

- **Credit Insurance for Manufacturers:** The current recession driven by COVID-19 has elevated the importance of credit insurance for small to mid-sized manufacturers. Many companies use credit insurance to provide supply chain financing and protect their accounts receivable from customer default or bankruptcy (the Wall Street Journal recently put a spotlight on this issue). The NAM seeks feedback from CMA members on the extent to which your members are being impacted by reduced coverage, rising premiums or other restrictions to credit insurance. If you have examples of these challenges, or would be interested in discussing potential policy proposals to address this, please contact me at tmuse@nam.org. Your feedback will be helpful as the NAM further explores possible work on this issue with CMA partners.

- **State Ballot Initiatives:** The NAM’s Manufacturers’ State Affairs Program hosted a program on state ballot initiatives. Click here for a recording of the MSAP Ballot Initiative Briefing with Ballotpedia, the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, official NAM state partner and the **Alliance for Automotive Innovation**, NAM CMA partner. The discussion includes an overview of ballot measures and trends to watch across the country that could impact manufacturers, as well as key insights into Massachusetts Ballot Initiative One “Right to Repair Law” and Alaska Ballot Initiative One “North Slope Oil Production Tax Increase Initiative”.

- **Remote Workforce:** Five months ago, 80% of workers were expected to return to their job site according to a survey by global consulting firm, McKinsey and Co. However, as the spread of COVID-19 continues, remote work is expected to remain a fixture in the
American workplace. The pandemic has also increased efforts to control business costs by boosting flexibility. As a result, 78% of executives now plan to hire more temporary workers and freelancers for on-site work in the next two years. Read more here.

- **NAM Elections Webinar Series**: Mark your calendar for the following election update series we’ve planned for NAM members:
  
  - **October 22 @ 11 a.m. EDT**: “It’s the economy, stupid.” How well will this classic paradigm hold up in the 2020 elections, amid a recession spurred by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic followed by a sharp recovery? Join NAM Chief Economist Dr. Chad Moutray and the NAM Advocacy Department for a look at some of the key economic indicators shaping the battle for control of Congress and the White House. | [Register Here](#)

  - **October 27 @ 1 p.m. EDT**: Amy Walter of the Cook Political Report will join the NAM team for a look at the major themes and takeaways from the campaign just a week out from Election Day 2020. [Join us and register here](#).

- **Election Guide 2020**: Since Election Day is right around the corner, MultiState has been hard at work preparing the information, analysis, and resources you need to make sense of all the races. They’ve launched their 2020 Election Guide which you can find [here](#). This guide is a source for up-to-date and accurate state election analysis and results.

### CMA Member Highlights

The NAM is interested in sharing new programs, initiatives or campaigns your organization has launched. Please send them to me to include in the CMA Weekly Update.

- The **American Home Furnishings Alliance** launched a new initiative in response to COVID19. To protect health and preserve jobs, AHFA spearheaded the Alliance4Safety, an initiative providing home furnishings businesses with a roadmap for operating safely in the face of a pandemic. Combining recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, local departments of health and industry consultants, along with best practices gleaned from a broad array of home furnishings businesses, the [Alliance4Safety](#) website provides a comprehensive guide to keeping the people who depend on our industry: Safe at the factory door, Safe on the factory floor, Safe in the store, and Safe in the customer’s home.

- The **Aluminum Association** released this [video](#) on their sustainability efforts.

- **Heidi Brock, president & CEO, American Forest & Paper Association** wrote this recent article “[Experiencing Digital Fatigue? Take a Break to Read in Print](#)”.

### Manufacturing Leadership Council

- **Rethink: The Manufacturing Leadership Council Summit**: Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, the NAM’s Manufacturing Leadership Council has endeavored to be an example
for other associations with their ability to react to meet the needs of manufacturers. We have been a partner and a resource to your association during these difficult times, and we will continue to be a resource into the future.

- That is why I am sharing this opportunity with you about Rethink: The Manufacturing Leadership Council Summit, October 27-29. This virtual conference will give you insights, tools, and connections to help you navigate disruption and advance in the digital era.

- Because your association is a partner of the NAM, you and your members can attend for a special rate. Register for a discounted rate of $295 or sign up for sponsor briefings to get your registration for free. You can also purchase an $895 Team Pass to bring up to 25 colleagues.

- Registration and event details are at https://mlcrethink.com.