

April 18, 2008

NAM Update

E-mail briefing from the National Association of Manufacturers

Top Story

President Bush Outlines Emissions Target Proposals. On Wednesday, President Bush outlined new proposals to stop the growth of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. He added that his administration would be willing to commit to binding emissions targets if other developing countries, including China and India, would agree to the same standards. With the potential economic impact of more stringent emissions standards in mind, the President called on Congress to pass climate change legislation that would not hurt the nation's economy. NAM President John Engler applauded the President's remarks stating, "U.S.-based manufacturers are dedicated to greater environmental sustainability. But, as President Bush noted, America can't do it alone. Every major economy must establish a national goal for cutting the emissions believed responsible for climate change." **Details:** [Keith McCoy](#), (202) 637-3175.

Human Resources Policy

Senate May Consider House-Passed H.R. 2831, the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The NAM joined a group of small and large employers, human resources professionals and other business leaders this week in a letter addressed to Senate leadership. The group of business leaders made clear that they support equal employment opportunity and unequivocally oppose unlawful discrimination. However, they are forced to oppose H.R. 2831 as the scope of this bill goes far beyond the issues raised in the Supreme Court's decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. H.R. 2831 also would remove an important incentive to prompt identification and resolution of potential discrimination claims. As the Senate may consider this legislation as early as next week, the NAM continues to urge Senators to oppose H.R. 2831. **Details:** [Jeri Gillespie](#), (202) 637-3127.

Tax, Technology & Domestic Economic Policy

Senator Hatch Says R&D Credit Key To Boosting U.S. Jobs and Innovation. In an event held earlier today at the NAM's Washington, DC headquarters, U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) told members of the NAM that strengthening and extending the expired research and development tax credit is "critical to maintaining the United States' role as the most innovative country in the world." Senator Hatch is the sponsor of the "Research Credit Improvement Act," S. 2209, which will strengthen and make permanent the R&D tax credit that expired at the end of 2007. NAM President John Engler echoed the Senator's remarks, stating that the R&D tax credit is an essential tool for American competitiveness in the global marketplace. **Details:** [Monica McGuire](#), (202) 637-3076.

Trade Policy

Colombia Trade Deal Stalls in Congress; NAM Presses Forward. As Congress has put the pending Colombia trade agreement on the sidelines, the NAM continues to stress

the importance of moving ahead quickly. “The agreement has real economic benefits for American producers, as well as vitally important foreign policy and national security benefits,” NAM President John Engler said earlier this week. As political tension has led to deadlock over the agreement, Engler noted that “Japan, Europe, China and other competitors are moving ahead with deals that will disadvantage American exports and American jobs in growing markets.” The NAM stands firm in its support of the Colombia free trade agreement and will continue to work for this important initiative. **Details:** [Doug Goudie](#), (202) 637-3078.

Manufacturing Delegation Meets with WTO Chief. This week, manufacturers and industry leaders met with World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Pascal Lamy and foreign delegations in Geneva, Switzerland to show U.S. support for a deal on the current Doha round of global trade talks. While there are still a number of issues to be resolved among the WTO’s members, officials are hopeful that members can agree on the outlines of a deal by early May. Ministers could then meet and resolve some of the more politically sensitive debates. With an agreement among WTO members pending, Doug Goudie, NAM director of international trade policy, stressed that now is a good time to begin discussing complex issues surrounding the Doha round with federal legislators. **Details:** [Doug Goudie](#), (202) 637-3078.

Court Cases Affecting Manufacturers

Consolidation of Asbestos Cases. On April 11, the NAM and six other groups filed an amicus brief urging the California Court of Appeals to vacate a lower court order that consolidated asbestos cases, and to compel that court to implement a formal process for consolidating future asbestos cases. Our brief argues that clear case-management rules will help California courts deal with the ever-growing asbestos docket and that improper case consolidation can have serious, unintended results, such as increasing the backlog of cases the court is trying to address, violating the due process and jury trial rights of plaintiffs and defendants, and creating serious ethical problems for plaintiffs’ lawyers. The case, *Foster Wheeler LLC v. Superior Court* (Cal. Ct. App.) is summarized [here](#). **Details:** [Quentin Riegel](#), (202) 637-3058.

NAM to Request Stay and Appeal Judge’s Ruling in Lobbying Lawsuit. The NAM was disappointed this week to learn that the U.S. District Court had ruled against our challenge to provisions of the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. NAM President John Engler stressed that the NAM remains convinced that many of the law’s burdensome and intrusive disclosure requirements will have serious effects on the Constitutional rights of NAM members. As a result, the NAM will ask the court for a temporary stay of the law’s enforcement as we prepare to appeal the District Court’s decision. To view the decision, [click here](#). **Details:** [Quentin Riegel](#), (202) 637-3058.

Other News

2008 Competitiveness Redbook Available Now! Purchase your copy of the 2008 Competitiveness Redbook today for only \$10 (NAM member price) or \$15 (non-member price). This informative resource provides you with vital information on how your state ranks in specific key areas and a concise snapshot of the structural costs facing U.S.

manufacturers at the state level. This is a must-have publication for any company seeking to evaluate the business climate and the ranking of 50 states in key areas such as: the cost of doing business, union membership, non-agricultural employment growth, wages and output of workers in manufacturing and many others. **Details:** (1-800) 637-3005, www.nambooks.com.

NAM Guide Helps You Avoid Pitfalls of New Lobbying, Gift Law. The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 presents substantial changes which affect anyone who deals with Congress or the Executive Branch. Companies or associations who violate the law could be liable for civil and criminal penalties. The NAM's "Lobbying and Congressional Gift Law" (Publication NB195SP) can help you steer clear of legal traps. The 25-page booklet, prepared for the NAM by the K&L Gates Law Firm, is packed with must-have information on the law. Among other things, it lets you know whether to register as a lobbyist and what activities fall under new gift and travel rules. Copies are available for \$8 each, with discounts for bulk quantities. **Details:** (1-800) 637-3005, www.nambooks.com.