An IPC Roadmap to Economic Recovery

Amid the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, IPC supports a sustained and bold policy agenda to combat the virus and overcome the economic downturn.

In addition to the many positive actions already being taken by governments and central banks around the world, IPC urges policy makers to address the specific needs of the electronics manufacturing industry, which employs millions of people and is a crucial supplier to every other industry. The steps listed below are aimed at U.S. policy makers, but the substance is applicable all over the world.

Keep Essential Electronics Manufacturing Open

- Facilitate the nationwide adoption by states and localities of the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) definition for “critical infrastructure;” commit to keeping these critical manufacturing facilities open; and ensure that curfews do not impede a healthy workforce from getting to and from manufacturing facilities.

Support Supply Chain Resiliency

- Congress should establish a $10 billion Electronics Manufacturing Initiative to enhance the resiliency and security of the nation’s electronics value chain by establishing public-private partnerships focused on the following priorities:

  Capacity: Grow domestic capacity for electronics manufacturing and establish systems to monitor capacity in times of crisis.

  Capabilities: Spur investment and R&D in artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies that make U.S. manufacturers more globally competitive.

  Workforce: Bridge the skills gap through more robust federal support for online workforce training and credentialing.

  Resiliency: Establish metrics for industrial base resiliency with capacity, capabilities and geographic diversity as key factors.

  Security: Integrate resiliency and security initiatives to strengthen the trusted electronics supply chain.

Spur Global Trade

- Suspend the imposition of import duties through December 31, 2020 on all products from countries that agree to provide reciprocal treatment for U.S. exports.

- Allow companies to defer payment of import duties through December 31, 2020.

- Reinvigorate negotiations with China on a “Phase 2” deal and suspend Section 301 tariffs on imports related to healthcare and other vital supplies necessary to combat COVID-19.

- Increase funding for U.S. export promotion programs, including the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service and Small Business Administration, to help U.S. manufacturers compete in the global marketplace.
Delay Non-Essential Rulemakings

- The Trump administration should put a 90-day pause on non-essential regulatory rulemakings unless they are directly related to urgent public health, environmental health, or economic recovery efforts. We need our business leaders to focus on maintaining compliance with existing regulations while taking on appropriate pandemic response actions. A 90-day pause on new proposals and implementation of new requirements will likely guarantee better compliance in due time.

Facilitate Shipping & Transportation Recovery

- Support the continued and robust operation of U.S. ports to ensure so that food, medical equipment and other vital supplies will continue to reach people.
- Incentivize airlines to expand cargo capacity and keep air freight rates on par with historical norms.
- Enact landmark transportation legislation that, among its goals, expands capacity on U.S. freight corridors.

Support the Financial Security of Manufacturing Workers

- Facilitate federal and state cooperation to allow companies to pay a portion of wages to underemployed workers who may be receiving unemployment benefits.
- Provide a tax credit for employers who continue to pay workers who are quarantined, have exhausted their allotted leave time, or have had their workplace shutdown.

Keep Manufacturing Workers Healthy

- Issue CDC guidance related to cleaning processes, social distancing, and other operational practices that can help stem the spread of the virus in facilities that must stay open given the “essential” nature of their production.
- Enhance tax deductions for employers who invest in safety equipment, including handwashing stations, respiratory equipment and cleaning products.

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