



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## Maximizing Private Sector Innovation

### ISSUE

Policymakers should embrace America's engineering industry – for innovations in every form of infrastructure – and reject efforts that limit the ability of public agencies to use the private sector.

Engineering companies play an essential role in helping public agencies to deliver and upgrade critical infrastructure – to reduce congestion on the nation's roads and bridges, provide clean drinking water to consumers, enhance the security and safety of the public and resiliency of critical infrastructure, and develop energy-efficient and sustainable "green" buildings. The industry addresses a range of public policy challenges that improve the quality of life of every American, while providing innovation, expertise, and cost savings to the taxpayer.

Agencies that use America's engineering industry gain access to the unique specialties and broad experience of thousands of talented firms that have been responsible for designing advanced infrastructure and facilities to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. Firms compete based on their qualifications and ability to deliver on time and on budget. Contracting out also enables public agencies to adapt quickly to economic conditions and fluctuating workloads, ramping up their programs when funds are available and ramping down when funding cycles demand savings.

By contrast, government policies that require the sole use of in-house engineer workforces stifle innovation and competition, limit experience application, and dampen economic growth.

### KEY POINTS

- Public agencies should rely on the private engineering industry to address complex engineering challenges and deliver a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure.
- Taxpayers benefit from innovation, broad experience, on-time performance and cost savings when engineering contracts are awarded based on qualifications, experience and track record.
- America's energy independence, transportation mobility, access to clean water, response to climate change, safety and security, energy savings, and other public policy priorities depend upon America's engineering industry.

### ACTION REQUESTED

Promote policies that maximize the use of America's private engineering industry; oppose efforts to restrict the ability of federal and state agencies to contract out for engineering services.