

ACEC/PAC – There is No Better Investment for Your Firm

ACEC Priority	Summary	Benefits to Your Firm
Six-year Surface Transportation Bill	<p>ACEC is promoting passage of a robust highway and transit reauthorization bill to give states the funding certainty to move forward on major transportation improvements.</p> <p><i>Status: Senate Committee approved 2-year bill, House to act before end of the year. Current law (SAFETEA-LU) continuing under short-term extension.</i></p>	<p>A new multi-year program is critical to the industry and will unleash a flood of new contracting opportunities for the engineering industry.</p>
Aviation and QBS	<p>ACEC is working to expand funding for airport projects through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and raise the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) collected for airport development, as well as require the use of QBS for all PFC-funded projects.</p> <p><i>Status: Both House and Senate passed bills in 2011 to reauthorize federal aviation programs. FAA programs and funding currently operating under short-term extensions.</i></p>	<p>The Senate bill increases AIP by more than \$500 million per year. The House bill endorsed the use of QBS on PFC-funded projects. Long-term funding certainty will allow many more airports to proceed with development projects.</p>
Water Infrastructure H.R. 3145 (Bishop) H.R. 1802 (Pascrell) S. 939 (Menendez)	<p>ACEC is backing legislation that will re-authorize the State Revolving Fund (SRF) for new water and wastewater projects, and mandate the use of QBS for projects funded under the SRF program.</p> <p><i>Status: HR 3145 introduced in House.</i></p> <p>ACEC also supports that waive the state volume cap for water and wastewater infrastructure tax exempt bonds.</p> <p><i>Status: HR 1802 and S. 939 have been introduced.</i></p>	<p>Passage of this legislation represents a major expansion of federal funding to support water projects nationwide, creating new opportunities for the industry, while also expanding the reach of QBS into local communities.</p> <p>Bill would make approx. \$5 billion annually in private capital for public projects and eliminate the need for water infrastructure projects available to local governments to compete with other allocations of Private Activity Bonds.</p>
3% Withholding Mandate H.R. 674 (Herger and Blumenauer) S. 89 (Vitter)/S.164 (Brown)	<p>ACEC led the effort to repeal a new tax law that would have required federal, state, and local government clients to withhold 3% from payments to engineering firms and other contractors.</p> <p><i>Status: H.R. 674 was approved by Congress and sent to the President for his signature.</i></p>	<p>Engineering firms would have been hurt by the new mandate, which would also have cost government clients billions of dollars to implement.</p>
In-sourcing and Government Competition for Third Party Work	<p>Numerous bills encourage or require the use of government in-house engineer workforces at both the federal and state levels, weaken the Thomas Amendment restrictions on USACE competing with the private sector, or allow direct local funding of federal agencies.</p> <p><i>Status: All bills awaiting further action in the House of Senate. USACE asked for position on their competing for third party work.</i></p>	<p>Limiting in-sourcing and competition initiatives and efforts increases the business workload for all firms working for federal, state, and local clients.</p>
Energy Various bills	<p>ACEC supports legislation and regulatory policies that promote all forms of domestically-produced energy, alternative and renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency (an “all of the above” strategy)</p> <p><i>Status: Bills under consideration in the House and Senate.</i></p>	<p>Incentives that seek to promote a wide range of energy options for the country will boost economic growth and create new business opportunities for engineering firms.</p>
Repeal of Expanded 1099 Requirement H.R. 4 (Lungren); S. 18 (Johanns)	<p>The new health care reform law included a provision that would have expanded the transactions for which a firm files an IRS Form 1099 to include both goods and services valued at more than \$600 annually, purchased from corporate as well as non-corporate vendors. H.R. 4 and S. 18 would repeal the provision.</p> <p><i>Status: H.R. 4 was approved by Congress and signed into law on April 14, 2011.</i></p>	<p>Passage of the legislation eliminated a burdensome new paperwork requirement.</p>
Legal reform Various bills	<p>ACEC is backing proposals to mitigate levee liability, provide Good Samaritan protections for engineering firms responding to natural disasters, limit the legal exposure of emergency responders, and place reasonable limits on medical malpractice lawsuits</p>	<p>Reasonable liability protections for engineering firms will reduce the risk of frivolous lawsuits, protect firms engaged in critical infrastructure work or responding to emergencies, lower the cost of design of infrastructure, and help to lower the costs of health insurance.</p>