



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## ***ACEC: What it Means for You and Your Business***

### **ACEC's Legislative Success = Results for Your Bottom Line**

- ✓ Repeal of the 3% withholding mandate that would have impacted all federal, state contracts.
- ✓ Repealed law that would have imposed broad new IRS Form 1099 filing requirements.
- ✓ 9% tax deduction for A/E firms.
- ✓ Laws and regulatory initiatives to require FAR compliance by state DOTs that prohibit arbitrary overhead caps, require recognition of single audit, expand QBS.
- ✓ Fully funding SAFETEA LU extensions to avoid cuts to state transportation programs.
- ✓ Legislation to increase contracting out; defeated all major anti-contractor measures.
- ✓ New law protecting A/E firms that responded during 9/11.
- ✓ Removed mandatory 10% retainage on fixed price federal A/E contracts, giving federal procurement officers the option to reduce or waive withholding.
- ✓ Exempted A/E services from a federal rule mandating Project Labor Agreements on major federal construction projects.

### **Opportunities for 2012...**

- ✓ Secure passage of new surface transportation program that boosts funding.
- ✓ Secure passage of major water and aviation infrastructure funding bills that expand QBS.
- ✓ Promote investment in new energy infrastructure, incentives for energy-efficient buildings, and other initiatives to create business opportunities in the energy sector.
- ✓ Pass ACEC legislation to protect the ability of engineering firms to use cash accounting.
- ✓ Secure passage of ACEC's emergency responder legislation and other measures to protect firms from unfair and costly litigation.
- ✓ Fully fund and expand new engineering student loan program; secure more H-1B visas.

### **...and Looming Challenges – Why Your Active Involvement is Critical Now**

- ✓ Defeat resurgent union efforts to curtail contracting out by federal & state agencies.
- ✓ Distinguish infrastructure investments and protect programs from budget cutting attacks.
- ✓ Protect firms from new mandates and higher costs resulting from the new health care law.
- ✓ Fight potentially harmful new regulatory efforts, unionization legislation, tax increases, and other initiatives detrimental to the A/E industry.

### **The Bottom Line**

- ✓ ACEC is the engineering industry's voice in Washington, focusing on the passage of new legislation and regulatory initiatives that enhance the business environment for your firm.
- ✓ ACEC/PAC is one of the largest political programs in Washington, supporting House and Senate members who support the business interests of America's engineering industry.
- ✓ ACEC's Minuteman Fund supports critical legal and legislative efforts in the states.
- ✓ ACEC uses its legislative and political resources for one purpose – to enhance your bottom line.