



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

January 27, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the voice of America’s engineering industry – I encourage you to support the infrastructure investments and business tax components of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

ACEC strongly supports the highest funding levels possible for critical investments in the nation’s transportation, environmental, and energy infrastructure, as well as funding to build and upgrade public buildings. Significant investment in the nation’s infrastructure will create an immediate boost in job creation and retention, and support a sustainable economic recovery for years to come. Studies show that \$1 billion in infrastructure spending supports over 34,000 jobs. Each dollar invested in highway and transit construction generates \$1.80 of GDP in the near term.

In recent days, there have been questions raised about the timely distribution of infrastructure funding contained in the legislation. We believe these investments can be injected into the economy quickly, and we are confident in the ability of engineering firms in your state to provide the support necessary to enable state and local agencies to put these dollars to work. Obligation deadlines should press state and local governments to move projects forward quickly to create jobs, but should also allow for major infrastructure upgrades – such as projects that increase capacity, reduce congestion, improve safety, protect the environment, and address the nation’s energy needs.

ACEC also supports strong language to ensure that states are undertaking worthwhile projects and not simply replacing already-planned state funding with federal recovery funds. To further maximize the economic impact of stimulus funding, I strongly recommend that you ensure that stimulus funds are invested in the private sector, putting the emphasis on growing the economy, not the size of government.

Finally, ACEC strongly supports the language in the bill to repeal the onerous 3% withholding mandate which, if allowed to take effect, will place unfunded burdens on state and local governments and negatively impact businesses that provide critical services to the public.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to rebuilding the nation’s economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond", is written over a horizontal line.

David A. Raymond