



Dear Colleagues –

As an important part of the Council's advocacy and educational agendas, ACEC commissions independent policy studies in support of our industry. This week, we released a [study of EPA's Superfund program](#) showing a steady decline in both funding and the rate of clean-ups, with implied health risks. This should be an important tool for legislators as they consider future funding levels. Last year's major contracting out study continues to pay dividends as state legislators use the study to achieve greater outsourcing of design services (e.g., a California state senator cited the results in an op-ed this week in the [Sacramento Bee](#)). Looking ahead to our Fall Conference in Orlando, Florida, we have a great lineup of speakers and business programs, including Michael Hayden, former Director of the NSA and CIA who will discuss risk management of terrorist and cyber threats; Martin Ford, on the business impacts of artificial intelligence and robotics; Rob O'Neill, former SEAL Team Six leader who shot Osama bin Laden; Neil Howe, the expert on Millennials in the workplace; and excellent CEO panels – not to mention our top-flight social program and Orlando venue near Disney, which your family will enjoy. Happy Independence Day!

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

July 1, 2017

General

- ACEC Chair Satch Pecori and I met with leading engineering CEOs in Europe to discuss industry trends and contracting practices; attended European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) conference on sustainability; reviewed forms of contracting with the French engineering association (SYNTEC); met with incoming FIDIC chair on international challenges; and attended the annual awards ceremony of the British Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE).

Government Advocacy

- Hosted a meeting of major association executives with George Sifakis, assistant to the president and director of the Office of Public Liaison (OPL), and his deputy, Steve Munisteri, to help propel industry issues with the Trump Administration.

- Lobbied the Senate Appropriations Committee for increased funding for the Department of State and USAID, and for increased U.S. firm participation in their programs.
- Renewed long-standing partnering agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and promoted contracting out with COE officials.
- Secured funding increases for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and beneficial provisions for commercial drone use in FAA reauthorization bills approved by House and Senate transportation committees.
- Urged member firms to contact their Members of Congress, to cosponsor the Public Buildings Renewal Act (HR 960/S 326), which would create \$5 billion in private activity bonds for public buildings.
- Urged Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta to reduce the more than doubled salary thresholds of the proposed overtime pay rule; the rule was finalized in May 2016 but a preliminary injunction put it on hold.
- Released a timely study of the federal Superfund program – which cleans up the nation's most highly contaminated sites – documenting decreases in program funding and a slowdown of clean-ups that ACEC is using to educate lawmakers and the Administration.
- Joined business allies in asking the Senate to include repeal of the health insurance tax on plans sold to small firms in its health care reform legislation.
- Joined industry allies on a letter to lawmakers in support of legislation (HR 2910) to streamline the permitting of natural gas pipelines at FERC.
- Called on the U.S. Senate to restore the quorum on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in order to allow action on more than \$16 billion in pipeline projects that have been on hold for four months.
- Expressed support for a supply chain cybersecurity standard adopted by NERC that allows flexibility for utilities and their engineering firms to negotiate exclusions or limitations on liability for malware that could appear in client control systems.
- Launched grassroots Action Alert backing legislation to repeal the "prior approval" rule, which requires ACEC/PAC and other federal trade association political action committees (PACs) with corporate members to get permission from firm leadership before soliciting and/or accepting contributions.
- ACEC/PAC surpassed \$550,000 in YTD receipts, the earliest this fundraising milestone has ever been reached, and keeping ACEC/PAC ahead of last year's record pace.

- ACEC/Delaware, ACEC/Rhode Island, and ACEC/Montana made their 2017 ACEC/PAC fundraising goals, bringing the total number of states at goal this year to eight.
- ACEC/PAC co-hosted congressional events for U. S. Representatives Joe Barton (R-TX), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), John Duncan (R-TN), Luke Messer (R-IN), Dave Reichert (R-WA) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR).

Business Resources

- [Senior Executives Institute](#) Class 22 met for their third session, where team learning, organizational vision, and strategy were discussed.
- The highly regarded ACEC course *Applying Expertise as an Expert Witness* was held in Boston, Massachusetts, where 22 technical professionals honed their skills at providing effective expert testimony.
- The [Registered Continuing Education Program](#) (RCEP) added three new providers in June – National Organization of Minority Engineers (NOME), Stalite Lightweight Aggregate, and Mars Air Systems – for a total of 152.
- EJCDC held their summer meeting in which the Commentary on the EJCDC Design Build Documents (EJCDC D-001) was approved for publication.
- ACEC released a new publication, *A Beginner's Guide to Succeeding in a Professional Consulting Organization* that discusses skills and experiences novice consultants need to be successful. www.acec.org/bookstore
- ACEC Coalitions' best sellers for June included *CASE 962-D: A Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents* and CAMEE's *Staff Workload Planning Workbook*, both available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- With 35 registered sites, June's most popular online class, *Increase Shareholder Liquidity without an ESOP: The Better Alternative*, explored an alternative ownership structure that meets the needs of affordability to buying shareholders, delivers fair value consideration to selling shareholders, and reduces the cash flow required by the company to fund the redemption obligations of selling shareholders.
- July online programs will feature: *Working Effectively on Multidisciplinary Projects as a Civil Engineer; Negotiating Engineering Contracts for Better Results; Winning Strategic Pursuit Management – How to Land in the Winner's Circle of 75% of the Time; Clearing Up Changes, Claims and Disputes; Communicating For Decisions: Why Only 20% of Your Company May Understand You; Strategies to Fight Broad Form Indemnification and "Duty to Defend"*.