



Dear Colleagues –

Hope you had a great Memorial Day weekend. Last week, you received from me an email on our fight against "blacklisting" legislation in several states that would bar firms involved with the Trump border wall project from doing business with state and local agencies. Another issue that many of you are dealing with is legislation to mandate the use of PVC pipe in a manner that interferes with the judgement of licensed engineers; so far, we've had an unbroken string of successes in killing such mandates. We've prevented the PVC industry from making any headway in the U.S. Congress, but state fights have been particularly fierce this past year in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and South Carolina. With help from industry allies, including water utility groups, we've effectively resisted. Now we're also putting together a resource center on our website to assist states facing this challenge, as well as looking at what further steps we can take.

As always, feel free to contact me or my staff at any time if we can help you with this or any other challenge you are confronting.

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

June 1, 2017

General

- ACEC/Wisconsin was awarded a Minuteman Fund grant to help defray the cost of public advocacy efforts to pass long-term state transportation funding legislation.
- ACEC is conducting a membership training session for MO staff on July 17 in Washington, D.C., covering the participants' hotel expense for one night and reimbursing travel up to \$250/person; 20 have signed up thus far and space is available for five more participants – contact Mary Ann Emely, memely@acec.org for further information.

Government Advocacy

- ACEC's grassroots Action Alert e-mail campaign helped to persuade over 200 Members of Congress to sign onto the letter from Representatives Sam Graves (R-MO) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) to the House Ways & Means Committee in support of addressing the long-term financial stability of the Highway Trust Fund in any tax reform proposal.

- Supported Infrastructure Week events in Washington, and promoted related activities around the country.
- Congress passed the FY'17 spending package that fully funds the FAST Act, increases funding for water infrastructure, funded key foreign assistance programs, and rejected most of the proposed cuts put forward by the White House.
- Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and John Boozman (R-AR) introduced legislation to expand funding to address combined sewer overflows and other problems associated with wet weather events, as well as expand QBS to drinking water projects funded through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program.
- Sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of Ambassador Mark Green as the next Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
- ACEC and the Coalition for Fair Effective Tax Rates submitted a statement to the House Ways and Means Committee in favor of comprehensive tax reform that lowers statutory tax rates for all business structures, and considers the effective tax rates paid by different industries.
- ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Representatives Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Kathy Castor (D-FL), John Delaney (D-MD), Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and Richard Neal (D-MA).

Business Resources

- With more than 40 participants, May's most popular online class, *Fundamental Elements for a Financially Sustainable Ownership Program*, examined the financial fundamentals paramount to successfully transitioning ownership in member firms, including key ratios that measure profitability, liquidity, and leverage.
- Carried out a webinar to educate members on energy supply chain cybersecurity standards being developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).
- Coalitions' best sellers for May included CASE's *Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents 2013*; *Guideline Addressing the Bidding & Construction Administration Phases for the Structural Engineer*; and LDC's *Monitoring Project Costs and Progress for Land Development Projects*, available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- The education management system RCEP (<https://www.rcep.net/>) added three new approved providers (The Vinyl Institute, Lyncole Grounding Solutions, and Pretek Group) for a total of 149.

- June webinars will include: *Oh What a Feeling – From Bland to Brand; Retaining Great Marketing Talent in Ten Easy Steps; When the Buck Stops with You – Risk Management Strategies for Designers of Alternative Project Delivery/Design-Build; Emerging Technologies for Engineers; Conversation and Collaboration Win Sales; PowerPoints Simplified! Tools and Tips for Presentations That Bring Results; How to Become a Project Manager; Increase Shareholder Liquidity without an ESOP: The Better Alternative; Taking Stock of the Engineering Industry in 2017 - The Economic and Market Trends Shaping the Industry; How to Avoid Organizational Amnesia: Transferring Employee Knowledge and Skills Before They Walk Out the Door.*