



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ACEC Calls for Streamlining Review Process ASAP

Washington, DC--The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) expressed its strong support today for legislation adopted by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that will reduce delays in needed airport improvement projects around the country. H.R. 4481, the *Airport Streamlining Approval Process Act of 2002 (ASAP)*, championed by Aviation Subcommittee Chair John Mica (R-FL) and full committee Chair Don Young (R-AK), will expedite the review process for airport capacity improvement projects at our nation's airports.

"This legislation is urgently needed," said David A. Raymond, ACEC President. "It is important that both the House and the Senate approve this legislation and implement these reforms as soon as possible." Raymond testified at the first hearing on this legislation in May of 2001, calling "insufficient coordination among multiple government agencies" the major underlying problem leading to construction delays.

"It is heartening," Raymond said, "to realize that the committee heard what we had to say, and that this bill addresses many of the concerns of the engineering industry." Among other things, H.R. 4481 directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to coordinate the review process among government agencies, stating specifically that environmental reviews be conducted simultaneously by government agencies whenever possible. It also empowers DOT to set deadlines for completion of these reviews.

Testifying last May, Raymond said, "We need expeditious development of airport improvements to alleviate congestion, and to save the taxpayer money." ACEC continues to work toward these goals, and applauds the committee for today's action that brings us one-step closer to these much-needed reforms.

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The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing about 6,000 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America's transportation, environmental, industrial, and other infrastructure. Founded in 1910 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations