Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – I urge Congress to extend the tax provisions that expired at the end of 2017 and 2018 and provide taxpayers with the certainty they need.

Founded in 1906, ACEC is a national federation of 52 state and regional organizations representing more than 5,600 engineering firms and 600,000+ engineers, surveyors, architects, and other specialists nationwide. ACEC member firms drive the design of America’s infrastructure and built environment.

ACEC strongly supports a multi-year extension of the Section 179D tax deduction for the installation in commercial buildings of certain energy-efficient systems, including lighting, HVAC, and the building envelope. Since its enactment in 2005, Section 179D has supported the construction of thousands of energy-efficient buildings, and has created or preserved hundreds of thousands of jobs. In addition, it has lowered energy usage and reduced carbon emissions. Preservation of the deduction is needed because the higher up-front costs of energy-efficient systems remain a significant burden to building owners, who often must wait many years to realize the energy savings needed to recoup these investments.

ACEC also supports a multi-year extension of the Section 45 production tax credit for biomass, geothermal, landfill gas, waste to energy, hydropower, marine and hydrokinetic. We supported the extension and phase-down of the Section 45 PTC for wind and the Section 48 investment tax credit for solar, which were approved by Congress in 2015 as part of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act. We think that the other renewable energy technologies we have listed here should have similar treatment.

Taxpayers have been operating in a climate of uncertainty with respect to these key energy tax provisions for more than a year, and we urge Congress to extend them as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Linda Bauer Darr
President & CEO