



Dear Colleagues –

Earlier this month, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, a \$1.3 trillion Omnibus funding package that included plus-ups in several funding categories of importance to our industry (See below). Subsequently, in a series of meetings at the White House, ACEC offered suggestions for a broader infrastructure bill and, in particular, how solvency could be restored to the Highway Trust Fund. We also discussed regulatory streamlining, reducing barriers to P3 projects, and facilitating COE water projects. As the Administration and Congress contemplate prospects for a meaningful infrastructure bill before the mid-term elections, we are asking ACEC's "citizen lobbyists" at our Annual Convention – now less than three weeks away – to encourage Congress not to drop the ball. ([Click here for registration information.](#)) See you soon.

Dave

## **PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE**

April 1, 2018

### **General**

- Participated in several meetings with senior White House officials to advocate for a broad-based infrastructure bill with priorities in funding, private investment, and regulatory reforms.
- The ACEC Board of Directors unanimously approved Kennedy/Jenks CEO Keith London as an interim Vice Chair on the Executive Committee for 2018-19; the appointment is effective immediately.
- ACEC Chair Satch Pecori reported the CEO search for a successor to Dave Raymond is continuing full-steam, as the Search Committee's preferred candidate withdrew for personal reasons and other candidates are brought to the fore.

### **Government Advocacy**

- Outlined the Council's infrastructure priorities in a letter to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, including (1) significant direct federal funding increases; (2) sustainable long-term revenue solution for the Highway Trust Fund; (3) permitting improvements to accelerate infrastructure development; (4) expanded incentives for private investment.

- The FY'18 Omnibus appropriations bill reaffirmed language included with the House and Senate-passed State Department funding bills that urge the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to "increase the use of United States professional engineers and architects in the design, build and oversight of construction projects funded by this Act"; and directs the agency to report on progress made to achieve proper engineering oversight of agency construction projects.
- The Omnibus appropriations bill also included increases for FY'18 for several infrastructure programs, including highways and transit, water infrastructure, Superfund and hazardous waste clean-ups, and military construction programs.
- ACEC endorsed bipartisan legislation introduced in the House by Representatives Brian Mast (R-FL), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Bob Gibbs (R-OH) and Julia Brownley (D-CA) and in the Senate by Senators John Hoeven (R-ND) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) to reauthorize and expand the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), a program created in 2014 to provide federal loans and loan guarantees to support water projects.
- ACEC and the ACEC Life/Health Trust submitted joint comments to the Department of Labor on its proposed association health plan rule, asking DOL to revise the rule to ensure that the Trust can continue to provide competitively-priced health insurance to ACEC member firms of all sizes.
- Submitted a statement to the House Ways and Means Committee asking for extension of the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction and renewable energy tax incentives, and signed an industry letter to congressional leaders in support of tax extenders.
- ACEC's Superfund Workgroup met with the EPA to discuss a joint effort to train EPA Superfund project managers and contract officers on construction management, cost estimating, and other oversight tasks.
- Provided comments to FHWA related to infrastructure considerations to be examined to support the deployment of automated and connected vehicles, including roadway characteristics and condition, traffic control devices, digital infrastructure and data needs.
- ACEC/Hawaii and ACEC/Wisconsin made their 2018 ACEC/PAC fundraising goals, joining ACEC/Indiana as states currently at goal for the new year.
- ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for U.S. Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) and U.S. Representatives Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Tim Ryan (D-OH), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA).

## **Business Resources**

- Launched [\*Laying the Foundation for Superior Project Managers: Practices, Principles, and Fundamentals\*](#), a new, interactive online course for up-and-coming project managers

that provides essential project management skills, tailored to the unique workflow needs and specifications of A/E firms.

- ACEC's popular [\*Business of Design Consulting\*](#) program hosted 42 rising firm leaders as they learned how to manage change and build success in performance management, strategic planning and growth, finance, ownership transition, contracts and risk management, and marketing.
- Coalitions' best sellers for March included CAMEE's [\*Quality Assurance/Quality Control Guidelines\*](#) and CASE's [\*Project Management Training Curriculum\*](#).
- ACEC's Senior Executives Institute (SEI) Class 22 met for their final 'official' session, where communication styles and protocols were revisited and strategy and systems thinking were further discussed.
- With more than 30 participants, March's most popular online class, *ESOP Developments: Tax Reform and Regulatory and Transaction Trends in 2018*, showed members how the new tax rates will influence ESOP valuations, repurchase obligations, and transaction structures.
- April online seminars will include: *Before Signing the Design Services Contract; The New Marketing Imperative: Client Experience as a Competitive Advantage; The Back Pocket! Business Plan; 10 Keys to Increasing Utilization in Your A&E Firm; Stop Asking For Referrals!; Equipment Leasing Considerations and Strategies; Dare to be Different and Increase your Hit Rate; Winning Strategy for a 30 Billion Dollar Taiwanese Mega-Infrastructure Program; Meetings That Matter; Public Outreach and Communications- A True Value-Added Service for Your Clients.*