



Dear Colleagues –

July was an eventful month for the Council – most notably, the Board approved Linda Bauer Darr as my successor beginning August 6. *Engineering Inc.* will carry a feature on her in the September/October issue. The Council awarded a \$100k Minuteman grant to California to defeat an egregious infrastructure funding repeal measure – part of ACEC's continuing emphasis on securing infrastructure investment nationwide; and we welcomed House T&I Committee Chairman Shuster's comprehensive draft infrastructure bill which includes a 15 cent gas tax increase.

Dave

## **PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE**

August 1, 2018

### **General**

- ACEC/California was awarded a \$100,000 Minuteman Fund grant to help support the MO's efforts to defeat a November 2018 ballot measure that would roll back state infrastructure funding of \$52 billion over ten years that was enacted in 2017.
- House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster unveiled draft infrastructure legislation that would increase gas and diesel taxes by 15 and 20 cents respectively over three years and index them to inflation, boost funding and financing options for water infrastructure, and streamline environmental compliance.

### **Government Advocacy**

- ACEC-AASHTO Audit subcommittee agreed to develop a joint educational session to improve coordination between DOT auditors and contract officers on treatment of costs and development of standard financial submittal packages for audits.
- The Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee presented examples of well executed federal procurement contracts to officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) as templates for future contracts.

- Joined with a coalition of employer organizations to support legislation delaying the imposition of the health insurance tax on traditional health insurance plans; Congress has already acted to lift the tax for 2019, and the House of Representatives has approved legislation to suspend the tax for 2020 and 2021.
- The International Committee heard from officials of the Departments of State and Commerce and the World Bank's Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) on efforts to improve overseas prospects for U.S. engineering firms.
- Endorsed the Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2018, which will create a demonstration grant program to deploy innovative mapping technologies to more accurately assess flood risks, especially in urban areas located outside of the traditional regulatory floodplains.
- Met with the EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation on "Remedial Acquisition Framework" implementation.
- Signed-on to an industry letter to President Trump urging action to fill a vacancy on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- ACEC/Connecticut made its ACEC/PAC goal for the thirteenth straight year, joining Indiana, Hawaii, Wisconsin, Georgia, Montana, Tennessee, South Carolina, Massachusetts and Connecticut as states at goal for 2018.
- ACEC/PAC hosted congressional events for Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Greg Gianforte (R-MT), Rick Larsen (D-WA); and Democratic Members of the tax-writing House Ways & Means Committee.

### **Business Resources**

- With more than 32 participants, July's most popular online class, *Up, Up and Away - M&A Trends, Tactics and Outlook for Engineering Firms*, helped members assess the current M&A environment, typical deal structures, valuation trends, and what's driving buyers and sellers.
- ACEC's new [\*Private Industry Briefs\*](#) will publish its second issue (August/September 2018) on July 31, focusing on the intermodal and logistics market including details on top clients, significant market trends, and relevant current legislation and policy.
- Released new CASE Tool 8-2: *Contract Clauses and Commentary*, available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).
- Coalitions' best sellers for July included CASE's *Contract Clauses and Commentary* and COPS' *Job Descriptions for a Land Surveying Firm*, both available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).

- [RCEP](#) added a new approved provider, L. F. Driscoll Company LLC, bringing the total number of approved providers up to 162.
- August webinars will include: *Email – The 7 Deadly Sins; Neuroselling: Engage the Brain to Trigger the Buy; Taking your Board to the Next Level; Business Continuity Planning to Protect Property, People, and Profits; It's Over Before It Starts (How to Position Your Firm to Win Before the RFP Comes Out); Making Money - Scope and Design Budget Management; Go-No-Go Procedures/Project Evaluation; Working Effectively on Multidisciplinary Projects as a Civil Engineer.*

-