



Dear Colleagues –

The sweeping tax bills in the House and Senate have been our principal focus over the past month and will continue to be so until final passage. We have serious concerns about these bills in their current form, and have sought improvements that will benefit all our members. While we endorse the lowered rates for C corps and the preservation of cash accounting, we are lobbying aggressively to improve the treatment of passthrough entities which constitute a majority of ACEC firms. Aided by thousands of our members who have responded to our various Action Alerts to contact their legislators, we have made significant gains in the Senate bill, but are not resting until we have exacted as much as we can.

Hope you have an enjoyable holiday season.

Dave

### **PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE**

November 28, 2017

#### **General**

- ACEC's recent leadership orientation sessions in Washington, D.C. – attended by 66 MO officers from 31 states – received high ratings, reflecting the value of the program and the strength of the Council moving forward.
- Nine national awards were won by *Engineering Inc.* and *Last Word* last week – 2017 MARCOM Awards – for excellence in communications.
- Approved a Minuteman Fund grant for ACEC/California to fight efforts to repeal *The Road Repair and Accountability Act*, a newly enacted state program which devotes \$54 billion over the next decade for transportation improvements.

#### **Government Advocacy**

- Continued to wage aggressive lobbying and grassroots efforts to improve the treatment of engineering "passthrough" businesses in the House and Senate tax reform bills; 4,500 contacts with lawmakers have been generated through ACEC's Action Alerts.
- Opposed the elimination of Private Activity Bonds in the House-passed tax reform bill; and ensured their inclusion in the Senate bill.

- Worked with industry allies to successfully eliminate "blacklisting" language from the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act which sought to reinstate a reporting mandate on firms working for DOD clients similar to the rule that was repealed by Congress earlier this year.
- Secured a positive decision from the Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors after providing guidance on national QBS law and policy and encouraging the Board to maintain a strong standard when reviewing compliance on local projects.
- Submitted recommendations to the General Services Administration (GSA) for improving the federal SF-330 Form (Architect/Engineer Qualifications).
- Helped moderate a panel discussion for the Environmental Business International conference on climate change adaptation and resiliency that featured participation from the U.S. Conference of Mayors and member firms.
- Arizona, Connecticut, Utah, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Nebraska and Nevada all made their ACEC/PAC goals in November, keeping the PAC on its record fundraising pace with over \$960,000 collected year-to-date.
- ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for U.S. Representatives Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Roger Marshall (R-KS), and Seth Moulton (D-MA).

### **Business Resources**

- With 28 registered sites, November's most popular online class, *Aligning Compensation and Ownership Transition Strategies*, reviewed various types of cash and equity-based incentives and how each can support ownership objectives.
- Senior Executives Institute (SEI) Class 22 met in San Francisco for their fourth session, and discussed new professional practice models, leading change, adaptive work, HR, and scenario planning.
- Released *CASE Tool 4-6: Project Team Coordination and Prioritization Log*, and *CASE Tool 5-5: Project Management Training*, [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).
- Coalitions' best sellers for November included CASE's *Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents* and COPS' *Health and Safety Manual 2017*, [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).
- Don't miss these webinars in December: *Unleashing the Power of LinkedIn; Accounting and Finance Tools for Building a more Resilient and Valuable Firm; Embracing an Atmosphere of Accountability; Intelligent Infrastructure, Interactive Buildings & Smart Cities; How to Get a Prospect on the Phone, Build Trust, and Get a First Meeting*.