January 1, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

Dear Colleagues –

Happy New Year! December – typically a slow month in Washington – was anything but slow for ACEC with passage of the five-year, $305 billion surface transportation law, permanent extensions of various business tax benefits, and record ACEC/PAC fundraising ($970,000 and still counting). Lifting off into 2016, our priorities include FAA reauthorization, tax code reform, energy and water legislation, and parrying various regulatory challenges. We look forward to working closely with you in the New Year to advance all key interests of our membership.

Dave

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General

- Secured enactment of the FAST Act, the five-year, $305 billion surface transportation authorization; see the FAST Act Resource Center on the ACEC website for funding tables and other important details.

- Secured ACEC language to promote contracting out in the FAST Act.

- ACEC/PAC has set a new fundraising record with $970,000-plus raised in 2015, with additional contributions still being counted.

- Indiana has already made its 2016 ACEC/PAC goal!

- Entry deadline for the 2016 national Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition
is Friday, January 8, 2016.

**Government Advocacy**

- Secured passage of legislation to extend the Export-Import Bank by four years.

- Congress approved new programs (as part of the FAST Act) to enhance the security and resilience of the electrical grid.

- Secured tax legislation to permanently extend the R&D tax credit and higher Section 179 expensing limits; extended bonus depreciation and energy tax credits for five years and the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings deduction for two years.

- Congress cleared a spending package that prevented a government shutdown, funded transportation programs at levels authorized under the FAST Act, and lifted the ban on oil exports.

- Secured House passage of the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015, which includes provisions to modernize energy transmission, distribution, and storage, and streamline government approval processes for pipelines, transmission lines, and energy exports.

- Met with Cuban embassy officials in Washington to discuss legislation pending in Congress on trade relations and ACEC/LA’s interest in a trade mission.

- ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) and U.S. Representatives Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Andy Harris (R-MA), and Gerry Connolly (D-VA); hosted a check presentation with ACEC/Florida for congressional candidate Rebecca Negron (R).

**Business Resources**

- December’s webinar on *The New Federal Transportation Program: What It Means for Your Business*, reviewed the new FAST Act and provided insights on funding levels and formulas, new grant programs, and changes to project delivery rules for state and local transportation agencies.

- Four new documents were added to the EJCDC E-Series contract template library: *EJCDC E-530, Agreement Between Owner and Geotechnical Engineer for Professional*

Coalitions' best sellers for December included CASE's National Practice Guidelines for Specialty Structural Engineers and COPS' Ground to Grid and Coordinate Localization Spreadsheet, both available at www.acec.org/bookstore.

January 2016 online programs will feature: From Project Manager to Project Leader; Dodge Engineering & Construction Outlook for 2016 and Beyond; Create Winning Strategies for Quantifiable Success; Best Practices for Highly Effective Boards; Mobile and Field Technologies for Engineers; Three Ways to Increase Your Fees Now; Managing Project Risks: Quantifying and Pricing Delays and Inefficiencies; Condos - Why Do They Continue to be the Most Litigious Project Type?; World Bank Procurement Reforms Benefit Engineers; Step-by-Step Guide to Authentic and Effective Presentation Skills; Recent Developments in Design and Construction Case Law; Get Noticed and Get Promoted.