



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Dear Colleagues –

As we begin the Labor Day weekend, our thoughts go out to our members in Hawaii who suffered the effects of the torrential rains from Hurricane Lane. As storms and other natural disasters wreak havoc on lives and the built environment, I continue to be inspired by the role our members play in improving the resilience of our infrastructure and rebuilding when necessary. Since coming on board a few weeks ago, I have had the pleasure of speaking with some of you on the phone and have greatly enjoyed and valued your insights and expertise on our Council. I look forward to continuing that process at the upcoming "listening sessions", which will give me a chance to hear from MO leaders in central locations. Both the volunteer leadership of the MOs and executive directors are invited and encouraged to attend. They are being held in New York City on September 24; Atlanta on September 26; Denver on October 4; and Napa on October 11 (in conjunction with the ACEC/CA annual meeting). If you have not already signed up for one of these sessions, please RSVP to [Melissa Thompson](#) and [Sully Sullivan](#) – I look forward to meeting you in person and hearing what you have to say about ACEC and how we can build on its success. Speaking of success, August marked the conclusion of the Council's rigorous annual audit by CliftonLarsonAllen, which gave us a clean bill of financial health. Good work by our ACEC Financial Oversight Committee and the ACEC Finance team led by Barry Doyle! Have a safe and enjoyable long weekend.

Linda

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

September 1, 2018

Government Advocacy

- The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released the first proposed rule to implement the new 20% Section 199A passthrough tax deduction that ACEC secured for A/E firms; the Council will submit comments on the proposed rule and invites input from member firms.
- The Environment and Energy Committee's summer meeting featured presentations covering Marcellus shale developments, emergent contaminants in drinking water, Army Corps implementation of an infrastructure permit streamlining initiative, and cybersecurity.
- Submitted comments to FHWA on proposed "safe harbor" indirect cost rate policy, noting potential benefits for small and DBE firms but seeking uniformity and consistency in implementation by state DOTs.

- Endorsed the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510), a bipartisan bill to provide dedicated revenue for the National Park Service and other federal lands programs to address infrastructure improvements and deferred maintenance needs.
- Joined with industry colleague organizations in support of S. 3033, the Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2018, which seeks to streamline state water quality certification authority under the Clean Water Act to facilitate interstate natural gas pipeline projects.
- Submitted comments to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in support of targeted improvements to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to streamline project delivery.
- ACEC joined the Partnership to Protect Workplace Opportunity in raising concerns about a Pennsylvania Department of Labor proposal to double the state overtime pay threshold and automatically update it every three years; this proposal is similar to the federal Department of Labor overtime pay rule that was overturned by a federal judge.
- In August, the Executive Committee approved Minuteman Fund grants for the following MOs and initiatives:
 - ACEC/Virginia & ACEC/Metro Washington (joint grant): Support for legislative effort to close QBS statutory loophole in Virginia.
 - ACEC/Missouri: Support for transportation funding ballot initiative.
 - ACEC/New Mexico: Support for indemnification legislation effort.
 - ACEC/Mississippi: Support for amicus brief on issue of protecting professional engineering licensure.
- ACEC/Alabama achieved their ACEC/PAC goal for the fifth year in a row (and for the 13th time in the last 14 years); ACEC/New Hampshire hit its ACEC/PAC goal for the first time ever (due in large part to the active support and involvement of the state's Emerging Leaders group).
- ACEC/PAC hosted congressional fundraising events for U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and U.S. Representatives Steve Chabot (R-OH), Bob Latta (R-OH), Eric Swalwell (D-CA), Mike Turner (R-OH), Juan Vargas (D-CA), and Greg Walden (R-OR); there were also 43 ACEC/PAC check presentations to Members of Congress made in the states by 11 different MOs.
- ACEC/PAC leadership also approved support for two non-incumbent congressional candidates: Anthony Brindisi (D) in NY-22, and Katie Arrington (R) in SC-1.

Business Resources

- With more than 50 participants, August's most popular webinar, It's Over Before It Starts: How to Position Your Firm to Win Before the RFP Comes Out, laid out how firms can position themselves to effectively win proposals before clients issue an RFP.

- The [Registered Continuing Education Program](#) (RCEP) added two new providers, Sprayroq and Jordahl USA, Inc., for a total of 165.
- COPS, Geoprosessionals, and LDC all had highly productive summer meetings, with attendees collaborating on development of new practice documents, discussing how new technologies continue to impact project work, and sharing best practices on project management functions.
- Released new CAMEE Tool 1-3: Insurance Management for MEP Firms, available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- Released an update to LDC Tool 4-1: Essential Contract Guidelines for Land Development Firms, available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- Coalitions' best sellers for August included CAMEE's Insurance Management, CASE's Contract Clauses and Commentary, LDC's Essential Contract Guidelines, all available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- September webinars will include: The Realities of Client Behavior; Business Development for Introverts; Grow Up! Things You Need to Know as Your Firm Grows; The Nitty-Gritty of the New Passthrough Deduction; Big Data, Neural Meshes & Probabilistic Forecasting; Essential Elements of Effective Leadership; Fast Future Rx: A Seven Step Prescription for Breakthrough 21st Century Business Success!; Is the ESOP Right for You?; Coming Up Short: The Top 10 Reasons Why Companies Fall Short of Achieving Strategic Goals; Leveraging Project Accounting and Marketing Systems to Increase Profits. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.acec.org/education/online-classes/>.