



# DESIGNING A STRONGER AMERICA

The American Council of Engineering Companies is the *business* voice of America's engineering and design services industry. We represent more than 5,500 firms employing over 500,000 engineers, land surveyors, and other highly trained specialists and licensed professionals who design and improve our world.

ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and metropolitan Member Organizations, advocating at the local, state, and federal levels for policies that promote economic growth, and improve the quality of life for every American.

## INDUSTRY IMPACT\*

The engineering and design industry directly employs **1.6 million workers** plus another **4 million** upstream and downstream workers.

The engineering and design industry's total contribution to GDP in 2023 was **\$656 billion** and **its direct economic contribution was \$251 billion.**

Every \$1.00 spent on engineering and design services generated **\$1.50 in GDP.**

The engineering and design industry contributed to **\$2 trillion in construction put in place.**

\*2024 Economic Assessment of the Engineering and Design Services Industry.  
ACEC Research Institute.

**Scan the QR code to read ACEC's policy priorities for the 119th Congress:**



[www.acec.org/advocacy](http://www.acec.org/advocacy)

# PRIORITIES

## FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

### TAX & INNOVATION 1

#### CHALLENGE: ENGINEERING INNOVATION IS AT RISK DUE TO FEDERAL TAX POLICY

Significant portions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will expire at the end of 2025 without congressional action. Engineering firms also need Congress to reverse a crippling tax on innovation and restore the deductibility of R&D.

#### SOLUTION: UPDATE THE TAX CODE TO PRIORITIZE INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Make TCJA permanent to protect balanced tax treatment of all business structures and advance policies that support innovation, employee ownership, and workforce development.

### 2 EXPANDING THE TALENT PIPELINE

#### CHALLENGE: MORE ENGINEERS ARE NEEDED TO DESIGN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT A GROWING ECONOMY

Our industry does not have enough engineers and the talent pipeline is failing to keep pace with demand. Federal and state client agencies are struggling to manage funds and projects because of shortages of engineering staff.

#### SOLUTION: PRO-GROWTH IMMIGRATION AND TAX POLICIES

Expand employment-based visas for engineering talent and the ability of employers to assist employees with educational expenses and student loan repayment.

### INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT 3

#### CHALLENGE: FUTURE INVESTMENTS IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS ARE UNCERTAIN

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) expires in September 2026, which includes the expiration of funding for federal highway, transit and water projects that are essential to the states for economic growth.

#### SOLUTION: EARLY ACTION ON IIJA REAUTHORIZATION

Congress should take steps this year to reauthorize and reform federal surface transportation and water infrastructure programs, maintain funding commitments, and streamline project delivery.

### 4 TARIFF DISRUPTIONS

#### CHALLENGE: UNCERTAINTY UNDERMINES ECONOMIC GROWTH

Disruptions in markets and supply chains due to tariffs are creating uncertainty and concerns over significant cost increases impacting infrastructure, energy, commercial and other projects in the built environment.

#### SOLUTION: A MORE PREDICTABLE MARKET

Implement more stable long-term policies around negotiated trade agreements that allow firms and clients to plan for the future.