



Dear Colleagues –

Despite a month-long Congressional recess, ACEC has had an active August building grassroots support for a long-term transportation bill, Export-Import Bank reauthorization, and new energy legislation. We have also challenged the Department of Labor’s proposed “blacklisting” rules that would disqualify firms from competing for government projects based upon mere allegations of wrongdoing or unfair personnel practices; similarly we have commented on proposed overtime regulations that would unnecessarily burden our firms. We also just got through our annual audit with high marks. Registration for the Fall Conference in Boston is strong, and I encourage you to sign up if you haven’t already, as early discounts end this Friday, September 4. Have a great Labor Day holiday!

Dave

## **PRESIDENT’S MONTHLY UPDATE**

September 1, 2015

### **General**

- Distributed agenda and background materials to MOs for October 14 Board of Directors meeting, including a draft three-year budget proposal (FY 2017-19).
- Received a clean bill of health from ACEC’s outside auditors for our FY 2015 annual audit: the Council’s “sound financial practices and procedures are exemplary, ranking the Council among the best managed associations we serve.”
- ACEC/Illinois surpassed its ACEC/PAC annual fundraising goal for the 11th straight year, joining Indiana, Hawaii, South Carolina, Delaware, Wisconsin, Alaska, Tennessee and Kansas in meeting its goal for 2015.
- ACEC/Arizona received a Minuteman Fund grant in their successful effort to pass a \$31.7 billion ballot initiative funding transportation projects in Phoenix over 35 years.

### **Government Advocacy**

- Engaged in grassroots lobbying to build support for House passage of a long-term transportation bill; funded radio ads in targeted congressional districts; sent more than

240 letters to Members of Congress generated through ACEC Action Alerts; and held Congressional meetings in districts throughout the U.S.

- ACEC International Committee met with senior officials of the Millennium Challenge Corporation concerning P3 projects; with the chief of World Bank procurement on newly implemented procurement policy changes; and with senior Commerce officials on how U.S. engineering firms can attain greater market share on international projects.
- Continued grassroots campaign to support reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank in the House of Representatives; a four-year reauthorization is already included in the Senate-passed surface transportation bill.
- Protested Department of Labor proposed blacklisting regulations that would jeopardize government contractors for mere allegations of various labor rule violations.
- Submitted comments to the Department of Labor on its proposed changes to overtime pay rules under the Fair Labor Standards Act, recommending more incremental changes to the salary threshold and maintaining the current duties test for exempt employees.
- Supported the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 in letter to Senate and Natural Resources Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski; the legislation includes ACEC-backed provisions to enhance grid reliability and resilience, streamline permitting, and improve federal coordination of policies affecting energy and water.
- ACEC Environment and Energy Committee summer meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota included 16 speakers representing NGOs, public agencies and private clients focusing on water infrastructure finance, EPA's Clean Power Plan, and the new wetlands rule.
- Former Chair of the ACEC International Committee, Manish Kothari, was appointed to the USTDA/U.S. Department of Commerce Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Services and Finance Industries, which advises on trade policy improvements.
- ACEC/PAC and ACEC members hosted several in-state events for U.S. House and Senate Members of Congress during the August recess, including for Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) and Representatives Joe Barton (R-TX), Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO), Mike Coffman (R-CO), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Pat Meehan (R-PA), Mike Quigley (D-IL), and Mike Turner (R-OH).

### **Business Resources**

- With over 30 registered sites, August's most popular webinar, *Data Breaches – Why Engineering Firms Are at Risk*, helped member firms understand their exposure to data breaches and offered valuable advice for minimizing the risk of breaches in the workplace.
- CAMEE, CASE, COPS, LDC, and DPC all held highly productive summer meetings – attendees collaborated on the development of new practice documents and tools,

discussed how new technologies continue to impact infrastructure design and project work, and shared best practices within their engineering services disciplines.

- Coalitions' best sellers for August included CAMEE's *Agreement Between MEP Engineer and Client for Limited Professional Services* and CASE's *Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents (2013)*, both available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).
- The education accreditation management system (RCEP) added two new providers, Morrissey Goodale and SWEP, for a total of 121.
- September webinars will include: *Ready/Aim/FIRE – Achieving Record Sales and Profits, Even in a Competitive Market*; *Developing Effective M&A Strategies – Improving Your Odds*; *If you Haven't Planned It, You Can't Control It*; *the Rights and Wrongs of Copyright – Why You Should Care About Who Owns Your Documents*; *Why Quality is a Poor Differentiator in the A/E Industry*; *Mature ESOPs – What Do We Do Now?*; *Liability IQ and Review*; *Competitive Strategies for Winning Pursuits*; *Using Metrics to Identify Barriers to Success*; *Ownership Transition 2.0*; *Placing Round Pegs Into round Holes – Supercharge Your Teams with Smarter Assignments*; *Time, Project and People Management Strategies Using Outlook*.