

**Issue Description**

**ACEC Position**

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| <b>Issue 1:</b> Final passage of the Senate version of HR1195 – SAFETEA-LU technical corrections, which makes technical and clarifying changes to the 2005 highway bill. It eliminates the ability to opt-out of the application of QBS on transit projects, and it allows hundreds of highway improvement projects to move forward, providing more contracting opportunities for engineering firms. The bill passed by a vote of 88-2.  | <b>Supports the bill</b>           |
| <b>Issue 2:</b> Signing on to a leadership letter calling for the inclusion of \$5 billion in infrastructure spending in economic stimulus legislation, which would fund hundreds of ready-to-go projects and provide more contracting opportunities for firms. 22 Senators signed the letter.   | <b>Supports signing the letter</b> |
| <b>Issue 3:</b> Cosponsor S1870 “Clean Water Restoration Act”, which subjects to federal jurisdiction ephemeral and intermittent streams, ditches and other conveyances, and potentially groundwater by defining them as “waters of the United States.” Such federally-jurisdictional waters would be subject to permits by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and other federal agencies.   | <b>Opposes cosponsorship</b>       |
| <b>Issue 4:</b> Cosponsor S777, which would repeal the 3% withholding mandate on federal, state, and some local government contracts set to take effect in 2011. This mandate was approved by Congress without debate and would harm honest taxpayers, especially small businesses.  | <b>Supports cosponsorship</b>      |
| <b>Issue 5:</b> Cosponsor S14, which would make permanent the tax relief that Congress approved in 2001, including repeal of the estate tax. This measure would protect small, family-owned businesses.  | <b>Supports cosponsorship</b>      |
| <b>Issue 6:</b> Senate passage of the final conference report for HR1495 (S1248), Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA) – authorizes \$24 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for various river, harbor improvement, conservation, flood control and development projects nationwide. The bill addresses a long list of infrastructure projects that have awaited approval by Congress since the last WRDA package was adopted in 2000. The bill passed 81-12. | <b>Supported passage</b>           |
| <b>Issue 7:</b> Expanding the availability of Association Health Plans (AHPs). During Senate consideration of legislation to increase the minimum wage, Senator John Ensign (R-NV) attempted to offer an AHP amendment. The amendment was rejected on a point of order by a vote of 47-48.   | <b>Supported the motion</b>        |
| <b>Issue 8:</b> Senate “cloture” motion to end debate and proceed with consideration of the FAA reauthorization bill (HR2881), which provides for increased multi-year funding guarantees for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and raises the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) for airports to fund improvement and expansion projects. 60 votes are required to invoke cloture – the motion fell short 49-42.  | <b>Supported the cloture vote</b>  |

**Issue 9:** Signing on to a leadership letter championed by Senator John Thune (R-SD) in support of SAFETEA-LU's FY 2007 guaranteed highway and transit investment. 72 Senators signed the letter.

**Supports  
signing the  
letter**

**Issue 10:** Cosponsor gas tax "holiday" bills – S2890 and S2971 – which would provide a three-month summer suspension of the federal gas tax. This gimmick would forego \$9 billion in revenue into the Highway Trust Fund, undermining funding for road and transit projects with no guarantee that savings would be passed on to the consumer.

**Opposes both  
bills**