



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

***ACEC/OHIO ANNUAL MEETING
FEDERAL ISSUES UPDATE
JUNE 15, 2017***

Steve Hall
Vice President

2017 Annual Convention

Lobbying Effort

✓ **A National Infrastructure Plan**

- Support balanced package that includes direct funding for the Highway Trust Fund, water and other federal infrastructure programs with incentives for P3s;
- Build support for bipartisan letter urging long-term funding solution for the Highway Trust Fund (secured over 200 signatures).

✓ **Tax Reform**

- Balanced package that treats corporations and pass-through businesses equally.

ACEC Citizen Lobbyists

- **Engineers are effective advocates – you’re problem solvers, and you work across infrastructure sectors and the built environment.**
- **Personal engagement is critical – at the local, state and national levels:**
 - ✓ **Capitol fly-ins**
 - ✓ **Phone calls/letters**
 - ✓ **Visits with lawmakers in the district, town hall meetings**
- **Political engagement is also critical – we won’t win unless we help elect lawmakers on both sides of the aisle who agree with us on the issues we care about.**

Major Agenda Items

- **President still driving the agenda, but stumbles and distractions diverting focus.**
- **Health Care Reform – ACA “repeal and replace” bill passed the House, awaiting action on a separate Senate bill.**
- **Tax Reform – discussions ongoing but the future is uncertain.**
- **Infrastructure – done right, both parties want it; this could become the vehicle for other initiatives.**

FY'18 Budget Process

- Trump budget proposal for FY 2018 includes cuts to major infrastructure programs:
 - Transit capital investment grants – only existing projects, no new projects.
 - TIGER multimodal grants – eliminated.
 - USDA rural water loans and grants – eliminated.
 - Army Corps of Engineers construction budget – reduced.
 - CDBG – eliminated.
- Very cold reception on Capitol Hill.

President's Infrastructure Package

- **FY'18 Budget package included outline of the President's infrastructure program:**
 - **\$1 trillion overall, with \$200 billion in federal spending; focus on “transformational” projects.**
 - **Incentives for P3s, regulatory reforms.**
 - **TIFIA, WIFIA, expanded tolling, PABs.**
 - **ATC “Corporatization”**
- **Expected launch this Summer into Fall.**
- **Congressional leaders continue to voice support for key ACEC priority: additional direct federal funding.**

Tax Reform

- **House Tax Reform Blueprint:**
 - **Lower rates: 20% C corporations; 25% passthroughs; 33% individuals.**
 - **Eliminates most tax credits and deductions; R&D retained.**
 - **Eliminates individual & corporate AMT, estate tax.**
 - **Full expensing/limits on interest deductibility.**
 - **“Border adjustability” approach incentivizes exports.**
- **Vehicle for infrastructure funding/financing.**
- **Tax reform more challenging than health care – impact to infrastructure initiative?**

Transportation Agenda

- **FAST Act implementation:**
 - Monitor and disseminate info on FASTLANE freight grants, alternative finance/VMT pilot program, other opportunities.
 - Promote implementation of streamlining reforms, putting forward new ideas.
- **ACEC remains focused on long-term funding.**
- **FAA Reauthorization:**
 - Current program expires at the end of September.
 - Key priorities -- funding, FAR requirements for airport projects, QBS expansion.
- **State DOT FAR compliance.**

Water, Energy Agenda

- ACEC, stakeholder groups pushing water for 2017 infrastructure package – funding for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs, WIFIA.
- Plastic pipe efforts at the state, federal levels.
- House, Senate to re-start push on energy bill.
- Administration actions to enhance energy markets – Keystone XL & Dakota Access pipeline projects – more to come.
- ACEC engaged on energy supply chain cyber security.
- Nearing completion of new Superfund study to support case for continued investment.

Regulatory Issues

- **FLSA rule boosting the salary threshold for overtime to \$47,476 on hold pending court action, review by the Administration.**
- **“Blacklisting” rule repealed by Congress; new “blackball” effort underway in the states.**
- **Broad EPA regulatory review – Trump Administration soliciting ideas for repeal/modification of regulations.**
- **Waters of the US (wetlands) rule, Clean Power Plan (CPP), still on hold pending court challenges, likely re-done/discarded as part of Administration regulatory review.**

Winning with ACEC/PAC

- Raised \$1,010,433 in 2016, nearly \$2 million for the cycle; 41 states made their 2016 PAC goal.
- 2015-16 Cycle PAC Disbursements totaled \$2 million as ACEC/PAC contributed to 318 House and Senate candidates and 23 political committees.
- Over \$500,000 raised to date in 2017; 8 states at Goal so far: IN, WI, HI, TN, MA, RI, DE and MT.
- Thank you Ohio for being a part of ACEC/PAC's success!

Government Affairs Staff

Steve Hall

Vice President, Government Affairs

Matt Reiffer

Director, Transportation

Greg Knopp

Executive Director, Political Affairs

Charles Kim

General Counsel

Lynn Schloesser

Director, Environmental and
Energy Programs

Jessica Salmoiraghi

Director,
Federal & International Programs

Katherine Bohny

ACEC-PAC Director

Katharine Mottley

Director, Tax/Regulatory Affairs

Michael Grimes

Government Affairs Coordinator

Mark Steiner, PE,

Senior Policy Advisor