



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!

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