



ACEC Advocacy Priorities – 2019

- ✓ **Infrastructure Agenda** – ACEC strongly supports a robust infrastructure agenda in 2019 that increases investment in core federal programs, expands innovative financing mechanisms, and streamlines the regulatory process. This agenda includes: Increasing and indexing the federal user fee to restore solvency to the Highway Trust Fund; continued emphasis on developing a mileage-based funding mechanism to eventually replace the existing user fee; boosting investment in federal water infrastructure programs; more investment in airport projects through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and lifting the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs); continued support for innovative bonding and financing mechanisms such as TIFIA and WIFIA; and tax and other incentives to promote vertical building “social infrastructure” projects. ACEC also strongly supports regulatory reforms and the timely passage of appropriations bills to ensure federal and state projects move forward efficiently.
- ✓ **Comprehensive Energy Program** – ACEC supports passage of a comprehensive energy agenda in 2019 that seeks to promote energy efficiency, modernize the electrical grid with emphasis on resiliency and security, streamline the permitting for pipelines and liquid natural gas (LNG) exports, and enhance the federal agency coordination of policies affecting energy and water.
- ✓ **Tax Reform** – Congress passed tax reform legislation that reduces the tax rate for C corporations to 21% and creates a 20% deduction for passthrough businesses (S corporations, partnerships, LLCs, and sole proprietorships). The new law also retains the ability of engineering firms to use the cash method of accounting, protects ESOPs, and limits the unintended impact of tax compliance provisions on financing for renewable energy projects. ACEC worked to ensure balanced treatment for all engineering firms and is now focused on the regulatory process and implementation of the law.
- ✓ **Regulatory Reform** – ACEC supports a common-sense regulatory reform agenda to promote efficiency in NEPA and other environmental reviews, as well as to reduce compliance burdens affecting all firms in all markets. This agenda includes working with the Administration to develop a new salary threshold under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that will be less burdensome for engineering firms and the clients they serve and opposing misguided regulatory mandates that interfere with engineering judgment on construction materials or expose firms to cyber security threats.
- ✓ **Workforce Development** – ACEC is promoting a workforce agenda to ensure engineering firms have access to talent, including support for STEM education, loan forgiveness and other incentives for engineering graduates, and lifting the cap on H1-B visas to attract the best and brightest from around the world.