

## ACEC/PAC – There is No Better Investment for Your Firm

ACEC Priority	Summary	Benefits to Your Firm
<b>Six-year Surface Transportation Bill</b>  Sponsored by T&I Committee leaders	ACEC is promoting passage of a six-year \$500 billion highway and transit program now to replace SAFETEA-LU to enable states to move forward on major transportation improvements.  <i>Status:</i> Draft bill approved by House Transportation Subcommittee.	A new six-year program is critical to the industry and will unleash a flood of new contracting opportunities for the engineering industry.
<b>Aviation and QBS</b>  H.R. 915 (Oberstar and Costello)  S. 1451 (Rockefeller)	ACEC is working to expand funding for airport projects through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and raise the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) collected for airport development, as well as require the use of QBS for all PFC-funded projects.  <i>Status:</i> H.R. 915 passed by the House; S. 1451 awaiting Senate action.	H.R. 915 increases AIP by \$500 million per year and raises the cap on PFCs, potentially raising an additional \$1.1 billion per year, which will allow many more airports to proceed with development projects.
<b>Water Infrastructure</b>  H.R. 1262 (Oberstar)  S. 1005 (Boxer and Inhofe)	ACEC is backing legislation that authorizes nearly \$40 billion over five years for new water and wastewater projects, and mandates the use of QBS for projects funded under the state revolving fund (SRF) program.  <i>Status:</i> HR 1262 passed House; S. 1005 awaiting Senate floor action.	Passage of this legislation represents a major expansion of federal funding to support water projects nationwide, creating new opportunities for the industry, while also expanding the reach of QBS into local communities.
<b>3% Withholding Mandate</b>  H.R. 275 (Meek and Herger); S. 292 (Specter)	ACEC is leading the effort to repeal a new tax law that will require federal, state, and local government clients to withhold 3% from payments to engineering firms and other contractors in 2012.  <i>Status:</i> Pushed implementation to 2012; building support for repeal.	Engineering firms will be hurt by the new mandate, which will also cost government clients billions of dollars to implement.
<b>In-sourcing</b>  H.R. 2736 (Sarbanes); S. 924 (Mikulski); H.R. 2104 (Filner); H.R. 3170 (Serrano); S. 1432 (Durbin)	Numerous bills encourage or require the use of government in-house engineer workforces at both the federal and state levels, stifling innovation, competition, and dampening economic growth.  <i>Status:</i> All bills awaiting further action.	The in-sourcing effort represents a threat and loss of business to all firms working for federal and state clients.
<b>Wetlands</b>  S. 787 (Feingold and Oberstar)	Federal legislation would expand federal jurisdiction over wetlands and isolated water bodies by removing the term "navigable" from the Clean Water Act and expanding the definition of "waters of the U.S."  <i>Status:</i> The Senate bill approved in committee.	This legislation creates problems for private sector clients and could further diminish markets for the land development sector of the engineering industry.
<b>Health Care Reform</b>  H.R. 3962 (Dingell); Senate bill (Reid)	Congressional legislation includes new employer mandates, a new federal insurance program, and tax increases.  <i>Status:</i> H.R. 3962 approved by the House; Senate action pending.	New mandates and tax increases will raise costs and limit flexibility; no provisions included to help engineering firms that already provide insurance to control costs.
<b>Legal reform</b>  Various bills	ACEC is backing proposals to mitigate levee liability, provide Good Samaritan protections for engineering firms responding to natural disasters, limit the legal exposure of firms involved with Ground Zero cleanup, and place reasonable limits on medical malpractice lawsuits.	Reasonable liability protections for engineering firms will reduce the risk of frivolous lawsuits, protect firms engaged in critical infrastructure work or responding to emergencies, lower the cost of design of infrastructure, and help to lower the costs of health insurance.

