

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the ACEC/CO is to assist its members in achieving higher professional, ethical, business and economic standards, enabling member firms to provide quality consulting engineering services for their clients and the public.*

## **ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRMS**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING:**

Our members support sustainable design practices which balance growth that is in concert with the environment, and meets the social and economic needs of the community. Growth is the catalyst of business development that creates jobs and increases the tax base as has been experienced for most years in the past several decades in Colorado. ACEC/CO believes that infrastructure improvements are needed to ensure adequate water supplies (as highlighted by the sustained period of drought affecting much of the state), repair aging and deteriorating drinking water and wastewater systems, revitalize and advance our transportation systems and educational facilities in order to keep pace with future growth. A recent ASCE report card for Colorado and the nation indicates our infrastructure is in need of significant rehabilitation. **We urge legislators not to delay this repair. Continued neglect will prolong the inevitable and places the burden on our children and future generations.**

Increasing congestion on our limited transportation systems and the increasing wear on our state's deteriorating roads and bridges are diminishing our state's economic competitiveness and vitality, risking our ability to shape the growth of our communities, and undermining our efforts to maintain Colorado's quality of life. **A consistent, long term revenue stream to adequately manage current transportation assets and provide for the development of future transportation systems is a requirement for a livable and sustainable Colorado.**

**TABOR/AMENDMENT 23:** ACEC/CO is aware of the many budget cuts that have been necessary due to decreased revenue and the growing need for government to do more with less. The State should keep a healthy surplus of discretionary monies in the budget to fund projects as the needs arise. As consulting engineers, we are trained to plan for the future, while recognizing the need to spend public money responsibly. **We urge the legislators to be thoughtful in their approach to examining solutions to current constitutional amendments i.e. Tabor and Amendment 23 as they relate to real needs for Colorado citizens, and guests to the State and our natural environment.**

**COMPETITION FROM STATE AGENCIES/OUTSOURCING OF SERVICES:** Our member firms are concerned about state agencies, as well as research arms of universities, performing work that could be more appropriately performed in the private sector. As budgetary pressures on state agencies grow, there is a natural tendency for agencies to seek external cash funding and to internalize the services that consulting engineers have traditionally performed. **We urge legislators to be aware of the differences between private and public sector employment with regard to growth of state government.** This process denies the State the efficiencies to be obtained in the competitive marketplace through outsourcing services.

**UNFAIR RISK ALLOCATION AND INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSES IN PUBLIC**

**SECTOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS:** ACEC/CO member firms continue to call our attention to onerous and uninsurable contract clauses included in state and local contracts that are uninsurable by insurance carriers. Adequate liability protection should be provided to these firms through appropriate contract language. **Legislators should consider indemnification legislation to provide appropriate protection and risk allocation among contract parties through more reasonable contract language.** This will help assure that the protection available from liability insurance remains available to our clients.

**HEALTH INSURANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS:** Public pressure appears to be directed toward reshuffling the health care deck once more, undoubtedly leading to escalating costs. This dynamic also plays out in the demographic reality that predicts rapidly escalating demands for a finite medical and fiscal resource as the Nation's population ages and continues to grow by some million each year nationally. ACEC/CO supports a wide range of responses to this problem. **We strongly believe that legislators should support the private sector as a significant player in the delivery of health care coverage.**

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