

ACEC Indiana goes to Capitol Hill

Largest delegation from Indiana participated in "Consulting Congress Days"

Written by: John Brand, ACEC Indiana President and National Conference Attendee

Indiana was well represented at the recent ACEC Annual Convention in Washington, DC. Thanks to all individuals of ACEC Indiana member firms who attended the convention for their contribution in being the "Voice" of our industry.

ACEC Indiana had 18 convention attendees from Indiana, in addition to Beth Bauer, to coordinate our plan of attack. Our ACEC Indiana group was well prepared to meet with our Indiana Congressional delegation and had meetings with our congressional delegation or their key legislative staff members. In a two-day period, we met with eight Indiana Representatives/staff and our two Senators/staff.

In these challenging fiscal times, with government shut-down in the daily conversation, finding a way to provide additional federal infrastructure funding is a particular challenge. We must continue to educate and advocate the benefits of infrastructure investment to our national and state economic growth. National and state legislators are under more pressure than ever to evaluate discretionary and entitlement



spending. Let's keep telling the right people that infrastructure is an investment in our future and it is not spending that needs to be reduced.

The ACEC national message centered on the following key issues:

Infrastructure

Investment= Economic Growth

- > Protect current funding levels for key federal infrastructure programs that support transportation, aviation and water projects.
- > Support new multi-year transportation and water bills that include private sources of funding to match significant federal investment.

New long-term Surface Transportation Program

- > Support a six-year authorization bill including greater use of private funds.
- > Protect and strengthen procurement of private engineering services; oppose government in-sourcing efforts.
- > Reduce burdensome review and permitting requirements which cause undue project delays.

Business regulatory burdens

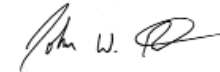
- > Repeal 1099 filing mandate.
- > Repeal Three Percent Withholding mandate prior to 2012 implementation date.

Maximize Private Sector Innovation

- > Oppose regulatory and legislative efforts that restrict federal and state agencies ability to contract out engineering services.
- > Promote policies that maximize the use and innovation of America's engineering industry.

Several members of our Indiana Congressional delegation requested specific examples of regulatory oversight or burdens which add unnecessary time and cost to project delivery. Please provide specific examples to Beth Bauer, who will consolidate the comments and follow up with our Indiana congressional delegation.

ACEC Indiana member firms received great benefit from the time and effort spent with our Indiana congressional delegation in DC. I encourage all of you to engage in grassroots efforts with your Congressional Representative and Senators to encourage action on our important issues. In addition, please support our ACEC PAC efforts with a financial contribution. Thanks again to all who attended the ACEC Convention to be the "Voice" of our industry.



John W. Brand

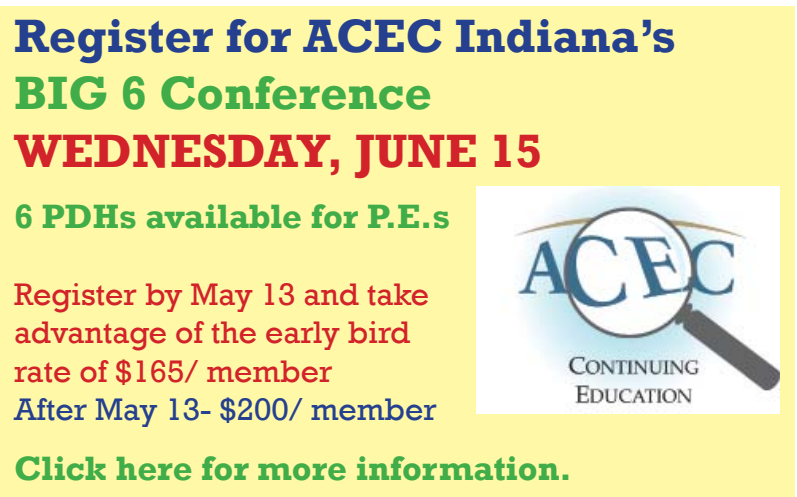


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