



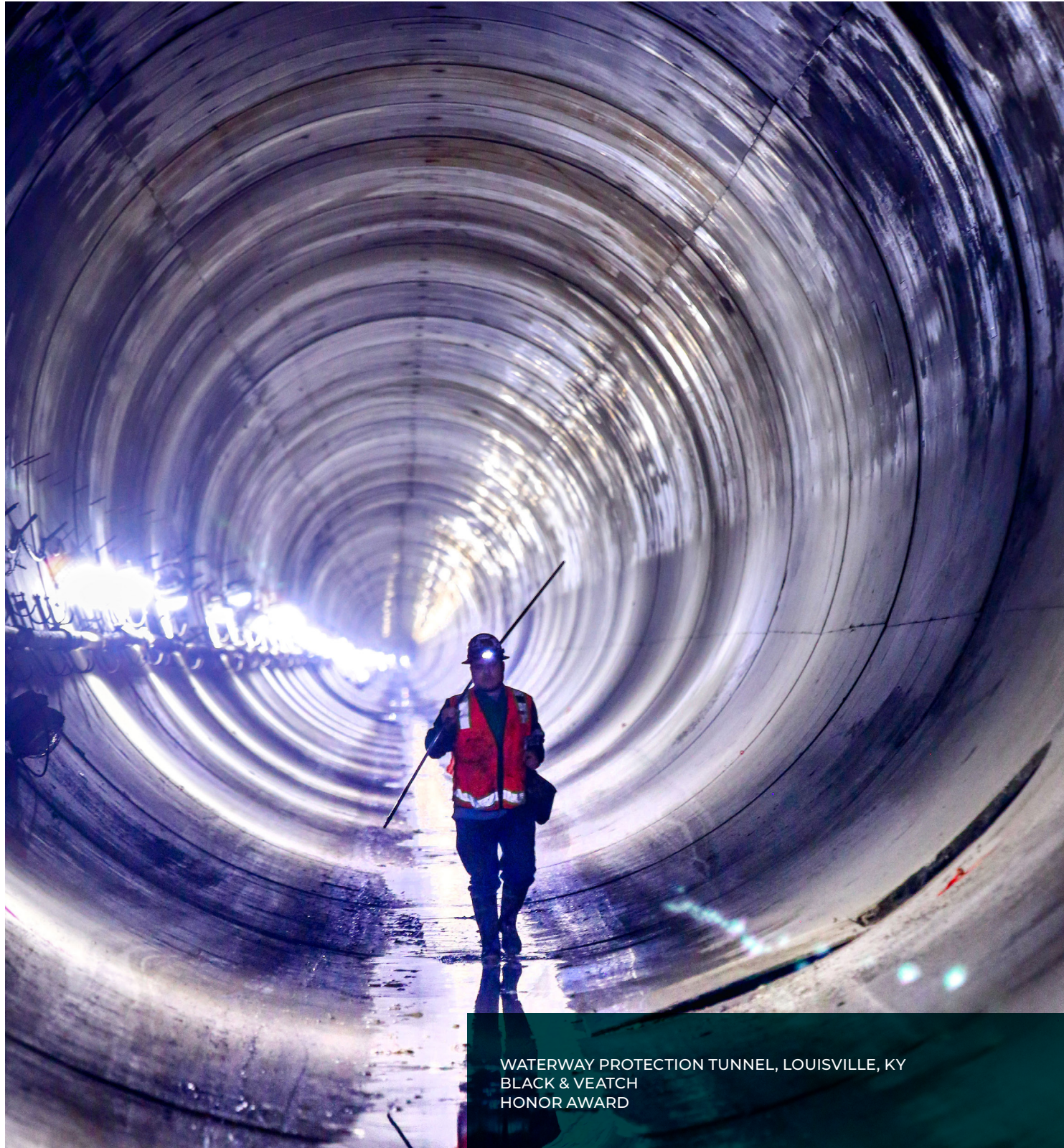
ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

20
24

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BU CENTER FOR COMPUTING
& DATA SCIENCES, BOSTON, MA
NITSCH ENGINEERING
HONOR AWARD



WATERWAY PROTECTION TUNNEL, LOUISVILLE, KY
 BLACK & VEATCH
 HONOR AWARD

ENGINEERING AT A GLANCE

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business voice of America's engineering industry. We represent nearly 5,500 firms employing more than 500,000 engineers, architects, land surveyors, and other highly trained specialists and licensed professionals who design and improve our world.

ACEC is a federation consisting of 51 state and regional Member Organizations, advocating for policies at the federal, state, and local level that promote economic growth, and improve the quality of life for every American.



The engineering and design services industry directly employs 1.6 million workers plus another 3.4 million upstream and downstream workers. Engineering's contribution to payrolls was \$367.6 billion in 2022.



\$627B to GDP: The engineering and design services industry's total contribution to GDP grew 10.7% compared to 2021.



\$413B in Revenue: The engineering and design services industry experienced a 10.9% increase in revenue over 2021.

FROM OUR CEO AND VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

When we say ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) embodies the heartbeat of America's engineering industry, we mean every word.

ACEC proudly represents 5,500 firms employing over 500,000 professionals and ranging in size from small, family-owned firms to global engineering companies. Our member firms design the infrastructure that supports our daily lives, from vital public works projects that bolster our nation's transportation and water systems to iconic skyscrapers that define our urban landscapes. Our companies support the nation's energy needs and are on the leading edge of addressing climate change and other challenges to the environment. Finally, ACEC members support the federal government in missions both here and abroad, enhancing critical infrastructure and our national security.

The engineering industry applies innovation to everything we do to enhance the health and safety of the public, the quality of our air and water, and structures that offer shelter and connectivity. Engineering, at its zenith, sustains and propels life forward.

It is our privilege to lead ACEC and work with our 51 affiliated State Member Organizations to advocate for policies that safeguard and enhance the engineering industry. ACEC supports an agenda to spearhead the transformation of our nation into a 21st-century powerhouse. Key elements of our agenda include:

- **Securing long-term and growing infrastructure funding** to bolster national resilience and competitiveness.



CENTRAL 70, DENVER, CO
RS&H & ATKINSRÉALIS
HONOR AWARD



GARY RABA 2023-2024 Chair-Elect
LINDA BAUER DARR President & CEO
JAY WOLVERTON 2023-2024 Board Chair

- Implementing **tax policies that incentivize innovation.**
- Enacting **regulations that prioritize resilient design techniques**, capable of withstanding the escalating challenges posed by climate change and severe weather events.
- Establishing a **workforce agenda to grow the talent pipeline**, including STEM education and immigration policies that attract and retain top talent.
- Enhancing **contracting and procurement policies** to prioritize project success and efficiency through Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) and innovative project delivery systems.

ACEC's agenda is not just about advancing the engineering industry; it's about nurturing America's quality of life, fostering economic growth, and ensuring our nation's long-term prosperity. A robust engineering sector is the cornerstone of a resilient and prosperous America.



ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL C,
ORLANDO, FL
HNTB CORPORATION
HONOR AWARD

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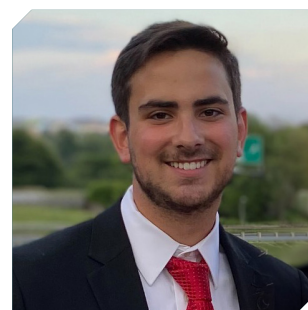
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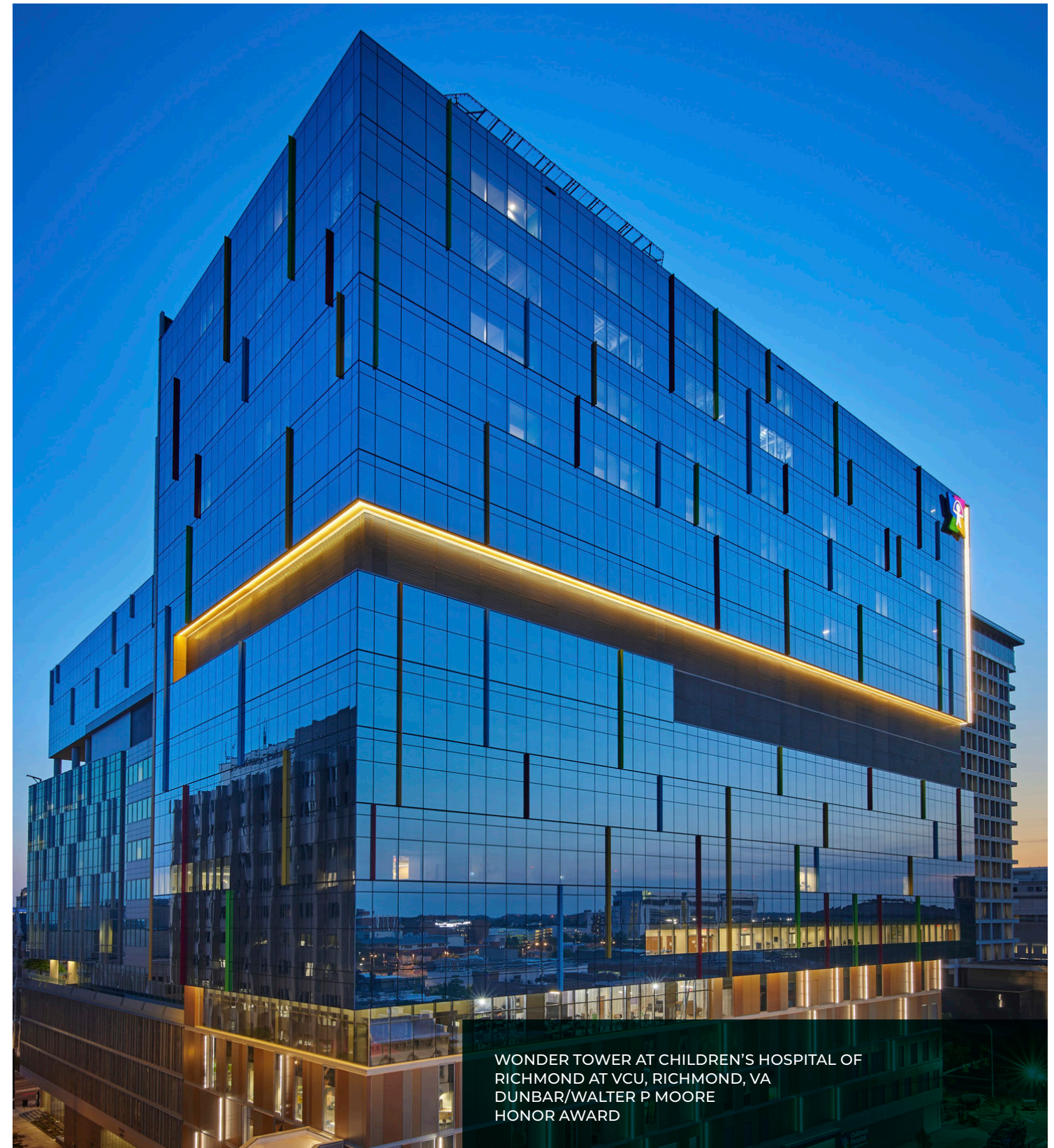
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WONDER TOWER AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF
RICHMOND AT VCU, RICHMOND, VA
DUNBAR/WALTER P MOORE
HONOR AWARD

IIJA IMPLEMENTATION

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides a historic opportunity to upgrade our transportation, water, energy, and communications networks to improve the quality of life for all Americans. The programs and projects funded in the IIJA will facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods, improve safety, provide clean water, enhance environmental clean-up and mitigation, address the impacts of climate change, and provide new economic development opportunities for our communities.

America’s engineering industry is committed to delivering these promised benefits. Successful implementation of IIJA programs requires a strong partnership between federal, state, and local agencies and the private sector, including policy adjustments where necessary to respond to changing conditions. Policymakers must also look ahead to the expiration of IIJA in 2026 and the need to sustain robust funding commitments.

As part of a national infrastructure strategy, ACEC advocates for:



Raising revenues to restore solvency to the Highway Trust Fund and continuing to develop alternative funding mechanisms such as mileage-based user fees.



Robust funding for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and USDA water programs.



Boosting annual Airport Improvement Program funding and lifting the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs).



Incentivizing private investment in energy, water, and transportation through tax credits, and federal loans and loan guarantees such as TIFIA, WIFIA, RRIF, and Private Activity Bonds.



Modernizing regulations for efficient project delivery while protecting the environment and the public interest.



Reasonable Buy America policies to strengthen the domestic manufacturing base while accommodating the acquisition of essential materials not currently available in the U.S.



LONG ISLAND RAILROAD THIRD TRACK EXPANSION PROJECT, LONG ISLAND, NY
STANTEC
GRAND AWARD



SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

America’s engineering industry confronts the challenges of climate change daily, working with public and private sector clients to reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to the effects of sea level rise and extreme weather events. Engineering firms are designing innovative solutions to increase efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance the resilience and sustainability of the nation’s critical infrastructure and other structures from natural and man-made disasters.

Consistent with the industry’s role, ACEC supports policies at the federal and state level to mitigate risk and encourage resiliency and sustainability:

- Retention of the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction.
- The continued extension of production tax credits and other incentives to support the development of wind, solar, and other clean energy sources.
- Create tax incentives for rebuilding to resilient standards after natural disasters.
- Public and private insurance programs, as well as initiatives and funding to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure against extreme weather events.
- Risk-based adaption and resilience strategies and policies to prioritize vulnerable critical infrastructure across jurisdictional boundaries to address geographic climate risks, such as flooding in riverine and coastal waters.

INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

ACEC members are designing the future, and innovation is at the heart of the services America’s engineering industry provides to their clients. Looking ahead to the tax policy debate that Congress will undertake in 2025, ACEC supports a 21st-century innovation agenda that enables the industry to serve a growing economy, compete in the global marketplace and raise the bar of what is possible.

ACEC SUPPORTS:



Tax and regulatory policies – such as deductibility of R&D expenses and the related R&D tax credit – that promote innovation and incentivize growth.



Ensuring that the tax code maintains balanced tax treatment for engineering firms of all business structures.



The Export-Import Bank and its ability to approve project financing.



Trade agreements that protect strong engineering licensure standards and intellectual property.



Promoting and expanding the use of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) in procuring engineering services to incentivize innovation, protect the taxpayer and ensure project success.



Policies to foster the advancement of new and emerging technologies such as unmanned aircraft systems, connected and automated vehicles, energy storage, advanced nuclear, and clean fossil fuel energy systems.

A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AGENDA

America's engineering industry is engaged throughout the energy sector – from traditional oil and gas to nuclear and leading-edge renewable sources – to support and sustain a growing economy. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act included critical provisions and funding to enhance the resilience of the nation's energy infrastructure and invest in clean energy technologies.

ACEC supports an “all of the above” national energy strategy to make full use of the nation's diverse energy resources, including:

- Upgrading our energy infrastructure to protect against natural disasters and other threats -- the IIJA includes funding for transmission, energy storage, and distribution demonstration projects to harden and enhance resilience in collaboration with electricity infrastructure operators.
- Utilization of IIJA programs and IRA incentives for operators and facilities to enhance investment in affordable, reliable, and resilient energy systems with high environmental performance.
- Support policies to enhance growth of new power generation technologies like nuclear deployments to power economic growth drivers like data centers and manufacturing.
- Modernizing the regulatory and permitting process to speed project construction
- Implementation of IIJA provisions to plan for electric transmission needs and the \$65 billion authorized to promote the construction of new transmission capacity.
- Programs that help to finance innovative, leading edge energy technologies and infrastructure, including funding under IIJA to establish hydrogen hubs and clean hydrogen manufacturing, as well as carbon capture pilot and demonstration projects.



CLEAN WATER FOR CARLLS RIVER, NORTH BABYLON, NY
D&B ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS
HONOR AWARD



GOVERNOR HARRY W. NICE/SENATOR THOMAS "MAC" MIDDLETON BRIDGE, NEWBURG, MD AECOM HONOR AWARD

WATER & ENVIRONMENT

America's water resources play an essential role in the nation's economy and sustained economic growth. ACEC was strongly supportive of the significant new investments in critical water infrastructure projects as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Going forward, sustained investment is essential for drinking water, wastewater and land and water remediation projects to protect human health and the environment. More investment is also needed in the nation's ports and critical water corridors, both to facilitate navigation and the flow of commerce as well as protect against devastating floods and sea-level rise.

ACEC supports an agenda to invest in America's water resources in the following areas:



Increased appropriations for the clean water and wastewater State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs, USDA's rural water program, and innovative financing for water projects through WIFIA.



Timely passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and strong investment in Corps of Engineers water projects.



Stable funding and efficient procurement for the Superfund, DOE Environmental Management and other remediation programs.

SUPPORTING FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

America's engineering industry is a trusted partner to federal, state, and local agencies, planning, designing, and managing construction of innovative and sustainable solutions in the built environment, including infrastructure projects and public facilities such as courthouses, schools, and military installations. By engaging local firms, public agencies benefit from the specialized experience, innovation, and on-budget and on-time performance that the private sector brings to the table to ensure project success.

ACEC SUPPORTS:

- Policies that promote a strong partnership between public agencies and the engineering industry.
- Funding and financing initiatives that invest in critical federal and state infrastructure programs and the development and improvement of public buildings.
- Maintaining and expanding public procurement rules that require the use of QBS to emphasize innovation and qualifications to facilitate successful project delivery.

- Requiring all federal agencies to include FAR compliance as a condition of receipt of funding by state and local governments for grant, loan, and aid programs.
- Policies to address cost and schedule growth resulting from ongoing supply chain challenges and inflation.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



America’s engineering industry serves clients representing a broad range of markets and needs more engineering graduates to support and sustain a growing economy. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the engineering workforce is already at full employment, and future employment in engineering and design services occupations is projected to grow six percent from 2020 to 2030, which is insufficient to meet demand.

The National Science Foundation reports that a significant portion of the existing engineering workforce is nearing retirement age, and NSF research has also highlighted that existing STEM education programs are not sufficiently reaching women and underrepresented minorities to meet the needs of a growing economy.

ACEC supports a workforce agenda that seeks to expand the engineering talent pipeline by attracting more young people to the profession, make it easier for firms to assist recent graduates with student loan debt, and federal immigration policies that enable firms to attract and keep the best and brightest talent from around the world.



State and federal programs that expand STEM education and grow the engineering talent pool over the long term.



Loan forgiveness and other incentives for engineering graduates.



Federal immigration policies to attract the best and brightest talent from abroad, including increasing the number of H-1B visas and recapturing unused employment-based green cards.

GLOBAL LEADER IN ENGINEERING SERVICES

America’s engineering industry represents the gold standard in quality, safety and resiliency and it remains sought-after beyond our borders. American firms have a global footprint that brings clean water, modern transportation networks, safe schools and hospitals, and reliable energy systems to the world. This is achieved through coordination and partnerships with a variety of U.S. diplomatic and developmental missions abroad including USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), as well as USTDA and the Export-Import Bank. Each of these organizations play an important role in helping American engineering firms compete in the international marketplace.

ACEC SUPPORTS:

Continued operations and funding for the Export-Import Bank and the critical role it plays in providing project financing to enable engineering firms to compete effectively for infrastructure projects around the world.

Implementation of the United States, Mexico, Canada (USMCA) trade agreement.

International development programs such as USAID and MCC and greater efforts to engage U.S. firms to ensure project success.

The use of procurement rules internationally that are reliably implemented and enforced with transparency.

ACEC

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



SIXTH STREET VIADUCT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOS ANGELES, CA
HNTB CORPORATION
2023 EEA GRAND AWARD

ACEC’s annual Engineering Excellence Awards is the premier awards event for engineering, showcasing the year’s best achievements in design. In 2024, 203 projects were honored at the awards event, with 24 projects winning a coveted Grand or Honor award.

The year’s most outstanding achievement is named the Grand Conceptor and is kept secret until announced at the black-tie gala awards event.

The captioned photos featured throughout this booklet are a selection of the Grand and Honor Award-winning projects that were honored at the 2024 awards gala event in Washington, DC.

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NEW YORK PENN STATION LIRR CONCOURSE
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AECOM
HONOR AWARD



TSX BROADWAY AND PALACE THEATER REDEVELOPMENT,
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GRAND AWARD

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