

Perspectives from ACEC National Conference

More than 1,000 ACEC members converged on Washington, D.C. last week for the 2010 Annual Convention, highlighted by the engineering industry's largest annual lobbying effort. ACEC Indiana had representatives from seven firms that carried the message to Capitol Hill.

ACEC Indiana's "Citizen Lobbyists" met with Congressmen Burton, Carson, Donnelly, Hill, and Visclosky, and the staff of the other four Indiana Congressman and Senator Lugar to advocate for several critical industry issues, including a new six-year surface transportation program; a new multi-year water infrastructure program; a new multi-year aviation bill; repeal of 3 percent withholding; and stopping initiatives that threaten the private sector and contracting out.

I took away three main perspectives on the value of participating in the national conference and grass-roots lobby effort:

On the Business front, our yearly visits to Capitol Hill as ACEC representatives are



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critical to advancing our causes. It is up to us to inform our political leaders of the importance of long term sustainable funding for Infrastructure needs such as Highways and Railway, Aviation, and Water, and compel them to act by passing funding legislation. It doesn't end in Washington, D.C. We must continue this effort with our congressional members when they are at home in their districts, as well. No one knows our business better than us.

On the political front, it was an eye-opener to

learn the extent of the young congressional staff involvement in the legislative process, which was not limited to providing reports or updates on bills, but actually drafting initial bills. Whether this fact is comforting or alarming, I will leave that to each of us to determine.

On the personal front, as Americans I believe it was a privilege to exercise our right to meet with members of Congress and express our opinions on any topic, in this case, long term, adequate infrastructure funding. We should all be grateful for that freedom and opportunity, and I would encourage all future ACEC Indiana leaders to be part of this experience.

Next year, I believe that we will also be more engaged in the energy-related issues and proposed bills that were under discussion this year.

Be sure to take advantage of your State and National membership: check out all the latest news for your profession, by visiting <http://www.acec.org/>

SAVE THE DATE!

June 23

Annual ACEC Awards Luncheon
Indianapolis, Marriott East

Click here for a registration form!



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ACEC Indiana Scholarship Golf Outing

Raising the stakes to raise \$15,000 for the Scholarship Program

Wednesday, June 16
Maple Creek Golf Club, Indianapolis

Ace (Individual Player)
\$125

Four of a Kind (Foursome)
\$500

Fold! (Make a donation and stay home)
\$100 Up the ante \$ _____

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