ACEC’s 2020 Advocacy Agenda
Lynn Schloesser
September 23, 2020
Advocacy Environment

- Impeachment Fallout; Coronavirus
- Presidential, Congressional Elections
- Infrastructure Remains Possible
ACEC RECOVERY AGENDA

- **Transportation** (link)
  - FAST Act reauthorization
- **Water** (link)
  - WRDA, CWA, SDWA reauthorization
- **Energy** (link) ACEC draft energy strategy
  - S. 2657 the American Energy Innovation Act
Transportation – Challenges and Priorities:

- **Raise Revenues**: projected Highway Trust Fund $110 billion shortfall between 2021-28; coronavirus; support alternative funding (e.g., user fees), TIFIA, PABs
- **Improve Resilience**: provide financial resources; develop standards and processes
- **Contracting**: ensure qualified, innovative engineering; promote competitive qualifications-based process for engineering
- **Streamline Regulation**: simplify environmental reviews for efficient project delivery
**Water Challenges and Priorities:**

- Drinking/waste-water systems need $750 billion over 20 years to maintain service (EPA)
  - Increase funding for the WIFIA and SRF programs and require the use of Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) for engineering on federally funded drinking water projects
- $100 billion backlog of authorized Corps of Engineers water resource projects
  - Reauthorize WRDA to support more resilient design, increase funding and financing options to reduce project backlog, and remove barriers to non-federal sponsor investments.
Energy – Challenges and Priorities:

• **Climate Risk Mitigation**: diverse energy supply and demand requires policies to advance technology innovation to reduce emissions; support nuclear, renewables and storage RDD&D

• **Climate Risk Adaptation**: cost-effective means is investment in energy resilience at the local and regional levels; support policies to improve grid security (physical and cyber)

• **Facilitate Construction**: modernize permitting and regulatory processes
S. 2302 America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019

- $287 billion in highway spending and is the most substantial highway legislation in history;
- $259 billion to be distributed to states by formula;
- Codifies key tenets of the “One Federal Decision” policy to streamline project delivery and federal approvals;
- Establishes a program to support projects that will improve the resiliency of roads and bridges to natural disasters and extreme weather events;
Look Ahead - Senate - Water

America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 (AWIA)
Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 (DWIA)
• ACEC May 1, 2020 comment letter [here](#)
• Senate EPW [unanimously passed both bills](#) May 6, 2020
Look Ahead - Senate - Energy

S. 2657 American Energy Innovation Act (AEIA)

• Efficiency, Renewables, Storage, – weatherization, smart buildings, wind and solar, hydropower incentives, advances marine energy research, geothermal, storage technologies and pumped storage

• Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage – modernize federal CCUS R&D efforts and promote direct carbon removal

• Advanced Nuclear – regain U.S. global leadership by pioneering advanced reactors

• Cybersecurity and Grid Modernization –provides new mechanisms and incentives to protect our cybersecurity and modernize the domestic grid.
House Forward Framework: $760 billion over five years

2020 Moving Forward Fact Sheet: Transportation

- Modern Highways & Highway Safety Investments — $329 Billion
- Transit Investment — $105 Billion
- Rail Investments — $55 Billion
- Airport Investments — $30 Billion
Look Ahead - House - Water

*House Forward Framework*: $760 billion over five years

*2020 Moving Forward Fact Sheet*: Water

- Clean Water & Wastewater Infrastructure — $50.5 Billion
- Water Infrastructure (Flood protection, navigation, etc.) — $10 Billion
- Harbor Infrastructure — $19.7 Billion
- Brownfield Restoration — $2.7 Billion
- Drinking Water — $25.4 Billion
Look Ahead - House - Energy

House Forward Framework: $760 billion over five years

2020 Moving Forward Fact Sheet: Energy

- Clean Energy—$34.3 Billion

Energy Innovation bills: here and here

- passed House Science Committee
- supported in draft ACEC Energy Strategy
House Forward Framework: $760 billion over five years

2020 Moving Forward Fact Sheet: Communications

- Broadband & Communications — $86 Billion
- Public Safety Communications — $12 Billion
Waters of the US (WOTUS):

- Previous WOTUS rule repealed, replacement finalized 01/23/20, effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Emerging contaminants/PFAS:

- Legislation passed House designating PFAS as a hazardous substance under Superfund
- ACEC opposed, supporting utility clients
- EPA announced intent to regulate PFAS and PFOA on 2/20/20
Environment

- Superfund/Environmental Management funding
  - RAF implementation
- NEPA proposed rule ACEC comments filed
  3/10/20
Water Energy and Environment Committee

• **Summer** and **Winter** Meetings; Updates (two to five times weekly)
• Work Groups: water infrastructure, emerging contaminants, cybersecurity, energy markets, remediation, permitting, resilience
Advocacy & External Affairs

Steve Hall  
Senior Vice President  
Advocacy & External Affairs

Dave Bender  
Vice President  
Political Affairs

Matt Reiffer  
Vice President  
Transportation Programs

Katharine Mottley  
Vice President  
Tax & Regulatory Affairs

Lynn Schloesser  
Director  
Environmental & Energy Programs

Dan Hilton  
Director  
Procurement Advocacy & International Affairs

Jeff Urbanchuk  
Vice President  
Strategic Communications

Jen Pugh  
Political Director
Questions?