



FALL 2009

AN UPDATE FROM THE ACEC/M LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

In early January, ACEC wasted no time in getting our Statute of Limitations bill reintroduced after a very disappointing end to the 2007-2008 legislative session. The bill was voted out of committee only to get hijacked in the Senate as the trial lawyers piled on, using our bill as a vehicle to add amendments for their legislation.

We have regrouped, and with the assistance of

the bill sponsor, Senator Alan Sanborn, have drafted a new single-section bill that will only address Section 5839, covering actions against licensed architects, professional engineers, surveyors and contractors.

Senate Bill 882 has been introduced and, hopefully, will be voted out of the Senate before the Thanksgiving break.



SANBORN



James Ray (left) and Joe Aiello testified before a joint session of the Michigan Senate and House Transportation Committees.

### TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

As the legislature remains focused on balancing the state budget, it has been difficult generating interest in transportation funding. A ray of light appeared on September 15 as the House and Senate Transportation Committees held a joint hearing on one of the transportation funding bills that allows public-private partnership (P3) agreements for transportation projects.

Testifying before the committee were P3 national transportation experts: Karen Hedlund, Chief Counsel of the Federal Highway Administration; Joe Aiello, of Meridiam, a leader in large-scale infrastructure projects; and James Ray, a former FHWA Chief Counsel.

Also this month, the State Transportation Commission authored a resolution urging the legislature to take action to increase investment in our transportation system and avoid losing federal aid due to the state's inability to match federal funds.

### 'GREEN' LEGISLATION

A team of engineers and architects from ACEC, AIA and MSPE completed a presentation before the House Energy and Technology Committee in June on "sustainable design."

Several bills have been introduced providing credits and incentives to pursue "green" design and construction. The group was invited back for a larger presentation to all legislators on August 19 in the House Office Building.

Several legislators have since contacted our organizations as we have established ourselves as the experts on the subject.



Michael Cooper, PE, of Harley Ellis Devereaux, (right) and Paul Jacobs of the Christman Company, were part of a group of experts who made a sustainable design presentation to the legislature in August.

### Did you know?

- Due to term limits, 31 of 38 state Senate seats will be open seats next year. Republicans currently hold a 21-16 majority in the state Senate.
- In the state House, there will be about a one-third turnover, with 34 of 110 House seats open. Democrats currently hold a 67-43 majority in the House.

## ACEC/Michigan Legislative Affairs Committee

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<b>Maureen Turner</b>	Great Lakes Engineering
<b>Michael Cooper</b>	Harley Ellis Devereaux
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### ACEC/M sponsors fundraiser for Congressman Schauer



From left, ACEC/M Executive Director Ron Brenke with U.S. Congressman Mark Schauer and ACEC/M President Paul Wade.

On June 30, numerous members of ACEC/Michigan's Legislative Affairs Committee were on hand to speak with U.S. Congressman Mark Schauer during a fundraiser, held at Kelley-Cawthorne. Members were able to share their thoughts on vital issues affecting ACEC/Michigan. The congressman provided a summary of federal legislation of interest to engineers.

### 2009 PAC

#### To date, these firms have met their CEPAC goals:

Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc.  
Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.  
Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc.  
Great Lakes Engineering Group, LLC  
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.  
Midwestern Consulting, Inc.  
Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc.  
Prein&Newhof  
Parson Brinckerhoff  
R.W. Armstrong & Associates, Inc.  
Tucker, Young, Jackson & Tull, Inc.  
Wade Trim  
Wightman & Associates

#### To date, these firms have met their ACEPAC goals:

Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc.  
Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.  
Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc.  
G2 Consulting Group, LLC  
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.  
Inland Seas Engineering, Inc.  
Midwestern Consulting, Inc.  
Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc.  
Prein&Newhof  
Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc.  
Wade Trim  
Wightman & Associates