January 2, 2020

Dear Member:

In New York City, 2019 was a historic year for consulting engineers. Construction spending hit an all-time high. Based on economic forecasts, 2020 looks to exceed these great results.

Meanwhile on the political front, anti-development sentiment, reflected in the Amazon matter and the new rent laws, poses a risk. With candidates running for Mayor, Comptroller and the City Council accelerating their campaigns into full-mode as Citywide elections will be held in 2021, this year it is crucial for the engineering industry to take an active role in engaging with the City’s future leaders.

Whether the City government is developing legislation, reforming procurement processes or planning for buildings/infrastructure, these decisions directly impact your businesses.

The NYC Political Action Committee (PAC) is an important tool which enables our Association to support candidates and elected officials who are aligned with the goals, objectives and values of the engineering industry.

In 2020, the NYC PAC will advocate for robust capital investment, promote government policies consistent with industry principles and will press for improvements to City procurement processes. Priorities include:

- Supporting smooth and effective implementation of Local Law 97, the Building Retrofit law. In 2019, we successfully advocated for the law’s Climate Advisory Board to add a Professional Engineer and the City selected the Chair of our Metro Energy Code Committee to serve in this important seat.
- Advocating for swift adoption of Code updates including revisions to the Plumbing, Energy and Electrical Codes, and an Existing Building Code. 150 members volunteered time to help re-write the codes.
- Ensuring the industry’s views are taken into account as the City expands the Procurement and Sourcing Solutions Portal (PASSPort) to create online procurement processes for all agencies including NYC DOT, NYC DDC and NYC DEP.
- Partnering with NYC DOB to improve member firms’ experiences with DOB NOW: BUILD, the online platform where Design Professionals do business with the DOB.
- Working for better procurement procedures and contract administration.

It requires continued advocacy to keep City officials supportive of the hundreds of firms and thousands of employees our Association represents, and to keep policymakers aware of our industry’s issues and priorities.

To support the PAC, principals and key employees of all ACEC New York Metropolitan Region firms are asked to contribute $100 a year and board members $250. Of course, members can voluntarily contribute larger amounts.
Whether you and your leadership team give $100 or $1000, it is important we receive a large
number of contributions in order for our PAC to have an impact increasing and maintaining our
presence in New York City’s political field.

Please note the NYC PAC can only accept personal – not firm – contributions. The one
exception is if a firm itself has a Federal PAC that only receives personal contributions. In this
case, a firm could write a check from the firm PAC to the ACEC New York City PAC.

There are two advantages to donating through the ACEC NYC PAC. First, this limits any
concerns one might have relating to campaign contributions securing an advantage for any
individual firm as the PAC acts on behalf of the industry as a whole. Additionally, principals of
firms that do business with the City of New York are limited in the amounts they can contribute
directly to candidates. Those limits are not applicable to contributions to or by the ACEC New
York City PAC.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. If you have any questions, please contact
Bill Murray, NYC Director of Government Relations, at bill@acecny.org.

Sincerely,

Vicki Arbitrio, P.E.  Thomas Schoettle, P.E.
Chair  Chair
ACEC New York/Metro Region  ACEC NYC PAC

Enclosures:  NYCPAC Q&A & Return Envelope

Additional Notes:
• Contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions.
• A full 2019 NYC PAC Report is available in the Members Only/Organization Documents section of
our website.
• ACEC New York’s Agenda and Positions are available in the Advocacy section our website.
• Checks should be made to ACEC New York City PAC and mailed to:
ACEC New York
8 West 38 Street, Ste 1101
New York, NY  10018
(please list your firm name on check memo)