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ASCE Key Contact Program

What do I get?

The Society maintains an office in Washington, DC with a highly qualified and dedicated staff. This staff keeps a close eye on the political actions of Congress as well as many other aspects of our Federal Government to ensure legislation affecting ASCE members is tracked and monitored appropriately. Following is a list of the activities and information coming from this office to alert you, the member, of what is going on “in the beltway”.

This Week in Washington

ASCE Key Contacts are among the first to learn about public policy developments affecting the civil engineering community. Through the email newsletter *This Week in Washington*, containing news briefs on the latest happenings in Washington and in the state capitals, we keep you informed on the most current activity. Key Alerts let you know when your legislator needs to hear from you most and provide you with all the information you need to effectively communicate with your legislator.

Back Home Visits

Key Contacts are the first to hear about government relations opportunities available to all ASCE members, such as Back Home Visits. These informal meetings between ASCE members and their elected representatives ‘back home’ in the districts, encourage members to develop and maintain relationships with their elected officials in an effort to educate them on important civil engineering issues. These meetings also serve to establish ASCE members as expert resources for legislators and their staff to call upon when they have public policy questions regarding civil engineering.

On-Line Advocacy

Contacting your legislator is easy when you use ASCE’s Internet Advocacy Website <http://www.asce.org/advocacy.html>. Log in for instant access to information on issues important to your business and your career. Use the site to research how your elected officials voted on key civil engineering issues and draft messages to your federal and state officials.

Government Relations Leadership Training

Every spring, ASCE hosts a Government Relations Leadership Training Program in Washington, D.C. This intensive two-day program provides participants with an inside look at the political process, beginning with briefings on the latest civil engineering issues pending in Congress and meetings with elected officials on Capitol Hill.

Is it worth my time?

Key Contacts have made a difference on a number of issues that have affected civil engineering. When federal highway funding was in jeopardy, Key Contacts

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sent over 300 letters, faxes and emails in just a few weeks to their Representatives and Senators urging them to support efforts to restore vital funding to the states. Key Contacts in Virginia lent significant help to preserving the QBS process in that state.

How do I join?

Any ASCE member can join the Key Contact Program. Visit <http://www.asce.org/govrel/> and click on the Key Contact Program to register online.

Questions?

Contact ASCE's Government Relations department at govwash@asce.org or 800-548-2723.