



The Joint Government Affairs Committee continues to work on a number of issues for ACSM members. Here is a selection of the currently most urgent ones we have been involved in, —by **Laurence Socci**

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### LOBBY DAY WEBINAR AND VISITS

In June, we had a great Lobby Day webinar to prepare members for visits with their Representatives and Senators. The webinar provided useful tips for securing and attending meetings with Members of Congress, and we also went over three issues that will be discussed during the recess—Preservation of Railroad Monumentation, Repeal of the 3% Withholding Tax on Government Contracts and Federal Funding for Trig-Star. The PowerPoint for the webinar and the Lobby Day handout documents are available on the ACSM website. We already received quite a bit of feedback from folks who had meetings, and we are following up on all of them.

### FEMA NEWS

FEMA recently released its 2010 Guidance for Great Lakes Coasts of the United States. The Public Review and Comment Period is going on now.

### COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

The Great Lakes Coastal Guidelines Update, dated January 2010, will supersede Section D.3, Wave Elevation Determination and V Zone Mapping: Great Lakes of the April 2003 version of Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners (Guidelines)—Appendix D: Guidance for Coastal Flooding Analyses and Mapping. These new guidelines incorporate a response-based runoff methodology and provisions for a response-based erosion analysis. Also new is a statistically based methodology to account for the uncertainty associated with long-term lake level fluctuations. The update also contains enhanced discussions relating to the calculation of wave setup, evaluating coastal structures, guidance for mapping coastal flood hazard zones, and requirements for intermediate data submittals for FEMA-contracted studies. The review and comment period extends from June 28, 2010 until November 1, 2010. During this period, FEMA encourages your review. Please submit your comments to Jonathan E. Westcott, PE, Program Specialist, via email at [jonathan.westcott@dhs.gov](mailto:jonathan.westcott@dhs.gov); [http://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/pdf/fhm/great\\_lakes\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/pdf/fhm/great_lakes_guidelines.pdf).

### DOD ALTERNATIVE ENERGY MAPPING ACT

Rep. Dean Heller of Nevada recently introduced H.R.5507,

the Department of Defense Alternative Energy Mapping Act. The legislation requires the Secretary of Defense to: (1) prepare maps of military installations and eligible adjacent property that classify locations on the installations and property as acceptable, unacceptable, or unassessed regarding their suitability for placement of geothermal, wind, solar photovoltaic, or solar thermal trough systems; (2) enter into agreements with entities involved in the production or installation of alternative energy systems to utilize their expertise and to share the costs of preparing such maps; and (3) disseminate such maps to Congress, the states in which the installations are located, local governments having jurisdiction over adjacent land, and the owners of adjacent private property. ACSM will meet with the sponsor of this legisla-

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tion to discuss what role the organization can play to move this legislation forward.

#### **SURVEYING SERVICES FOR LOMAS TO BE REIMBURSED BY THE FEDS—FAIRNESS IN FLOOD MAPPING ACT OF 2010**

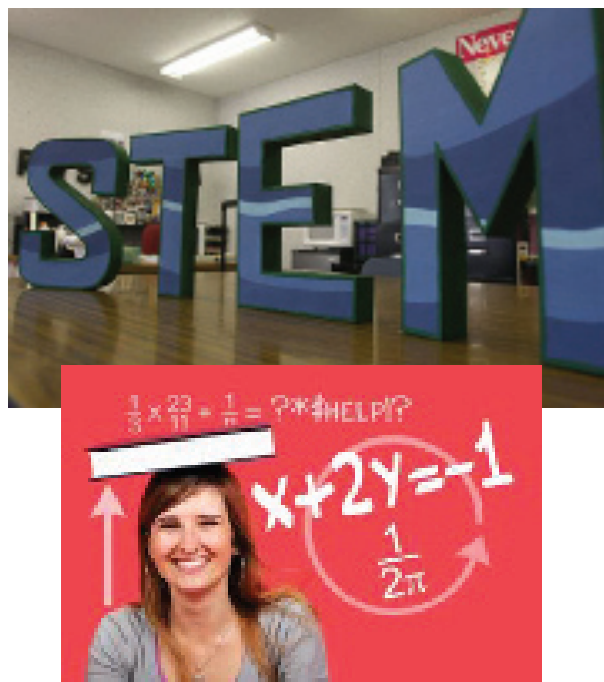
Legislation was recently introduced in the House that would provide reimbursement for certain services relating to an approved letter of map amendment. The Bill is entitled the Fairness in Flood Mapping Act of 2010, and its number is H.R. 5722. Shortly after the bill was introduced, Rep. Steve Driehaus (D-OH), the sponsor of H.R. 5722, proposed an Amendment to H.R. 5114, the Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act as follows: “if the owner of any property located in an area described in section 102(i)(1) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 obtains a letter of map amendment during the 5-year period for such area referred to in such section, FEMA shall reimburse such owner, or such entity or jurisdiction acting on such owners behalf, for any costs incurred in obtaining such letter.” The Amendment was agreed to by voice vote. We are working with the Senate to ensure that the same language is in the Senate version of the bill.

#### **USGS COALITION NEWS**

The USGS Coalition discussed several key issues at its recent meeting. The Coalition hosted a Congressional Reception and Exhibition on Sept. 20 on Capitol Hill. During the Reception, the Coalition presented its Leadership Award to Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA) for their work in support of the USGS. Among the past recipients of the award are Rep. Norman Dicks, in 2008, and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, in 2009. The USGS is also offering several opportunities for Coalition members to work with the USGS on outreach programs. For example, the USGS is looking for Coalition member co-sponsorship of its *USGS Congressional Briefing Series*. Other proposals include: joint press release with Coalition members, articles written by USGS staff in Coalition member organizations’ in-house publications, and tours of the USGS headquarters for the Coalition or Coalition members.

#### **STEM COALITION NEWS**

ACSM recently joined the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition and signed on to a letter from the Coalition to Senators in support of the America COMPETES Act. The America COMPETES Act, which already passed the House, bolsters America’s competitiveness by strengthening the science, technology, engineering, and math education fields. The bill is intended to give support for basic research and development programs in the STEM fields in elementary and high schools. As part of the STEM Education Coalition, we join over 1,000 diverse groups representing all sectors of the technological workforce—from knowledge workers, to educators, to scientists,



engineers, and technicians. Through its affiliation with the Coalition, ACSM hopes to be able to secure Trig-Star funding by finding broad support for the funding with STEM Coalition members who can, in turn, help ACSM gain support in Congress.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ACT—1099 PAPERWORK NIGHTMARE**

Congress recently passed the Small Business Lending Act, which did a lot to help small businesses. But contained in the bill is a section that will dramatically increase the paperwork that small businesses must file with the IRS. Section 9006 of the Act mandates that every business, charity, and local and state government entity submit 1099 forms for business transactions totaling \$600 or more in a given year. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce found that the mandate increases businesses’ reporting requirements by as much as 2,000 percent. The increased use of 1099 reporting has been identified as a measure to increase tax compliance.

#### **COFPAES UPDATE**

The Fall Delegate Meeting on Nov. 9 and 10 had a different format. On November 9, COFPAES will host an all-day workshop on QBS contracting for A/E services. The class will be taught by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and will provide information on the Federal government’s acquisition of firms via the Brooks Act qualifications based selection. November 10, in the morning, COFPAES will host a Federal A/E Forum; the afternoon will be devoted to the Delegates Meeting.