

2016 Legislative Fly-In

The 2016 ASCE Legislative Fly-in was a great success, with every state sending at least one delegate and totaling more than 200 attendees. The Fly-in was an intense two day event held on March 15th and 16th, 2016. The Alabama Section sent a delegation of four people consisting of **Mr. Joe Meads, Alabama Section Legislative Captain; Mrs. Shelia Montgomery-Mills, Alabama Section President; Mr. Michael Hora, Alabama Section Past President; and Mr. Brad Williams, Montgomery Branch President.** The delegation had an opportunity to meet with the Staff of Senator Richard Shelby, Senator Jeff Sessions, Representative Terri Sewell, Representative Gary Palmer, and Representative Martha Roby.



On Tuesday, March 15th, the delegation spent an afternoon learning about the issues that would be focused on, and then we developed a specific message around how the issues affect our individual state. On Wednesday, March 16th, we went to the Capitol and the footrace began! The ASCE Government Relations staff scheduled meetings for each of the members with their senate and congressional representatives within a 5 hour window. Most meetings were very productive and lasted less than 30 minutes. Even though no senator or representative was present at the meetings, **Senator Shelby, Representative Roby, and Representative Palmer** were kind enough to make it a point to stop in and say hello to us. The meetings themselves were very informative with the staff and a leave behind packet was provided for each one of them. This packet provided the legislators with an overview of the issues and ASCE's position so that they could review it upon returning from the Senate or Congressional Floor.

The four items that were discussed at the Fly-in were:

1. FAST Act Reauthorization

- a. We thanked the staff of each representative for helping to pass the FAST Act.

2. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization

- a. We urged the staff of each representative to reauthorize federal aviation programs, which have been operating under extension since September 2015.
- b. The bill would:
 - i. Increase authorized funding for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) to \$3.8 billion by 2022, representing a 2.2% increase each year starting in FY 2017.
 - ii. Restore the FY 2011 funding level of \$3.5 billion by 2018.
 - iii. Retain the cap of \$4.50 for Passenger Facility Charges (PFC's), limiting the amount of funding that airports can collect to make improvements.

3. Water Infrastructure and FY 2017 Appropriations

- a. We urged the staff of each representative to act swiftly to address well-documented water infrastructure problems across the nation.
- b. This bills would:
 - i. Restore the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to 2009 levels of \$3.1 billion.
 - ii. Restore the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to 2009 levels of \$5.9 billion.
 - iii. Fund the Water Infrastructure Financing Program known as the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

4. Water Resources Development Act 2016

- a. We urged the staff of each representative to pass a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) this year, retaining it on a 2-year cycle.
- b. This bill would:
 - i. Authorize a Dam Rehabilitation Program.
 - ii. Expand the Public-Private Partnership (P3) Pilot Program created in WRRDA 2014 and authorize an additional PE new start in FY17.

We would encourage you to contact your senators and representative to make them aware of how you and your neighbors are affected by these issues.

For more information concerning the Fly-In please visit http://www.asce.org/legislative_fly-in/



Team Alabama Members meeting with Senator Richard Shelby



Team Alabama Members meeting with Representative Martha Roby



Team Alabama Members meeting with Representative Gary Palmer