

December 23, 2014 – VOLUME 11, ISSUE 12

ACPPA Lays a Solid Foundation for Future Public Policy Victories

Despite dysfunction on Capitol Hill and the conclusion of the least productive Congress in modern American history, ACPPA increased its visibility on Capitol Hill and set the stage for a successful 2015 on the advocacy front.

Here's a list of ACPPA's public policy accomplishments in 2014:

Preventing Cuts to SRF Programs. One of ACPPA's top priorities is protecting the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) from continued cuts. Since 2009, the program has seen dramatic reductions. While the association would prefer increased investment, stopping the bleeding was essential. Consequently, the CROmnibus's level funding for the SRF programs was a major victory for water infrastructure advocates and should help stabilize construction markets.

Moving the Needle on Public-Private Partnerships. As federal investment in water infrastructure has plummeted, ACPPA has taken a leadership role advocating for public-private partnerships to make up the funding gap. The association continued educating Congress about the benefits to lifting the cap on private activity bonds for water infrastructure projects as a member of the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Coalition's steering committee. The association was also successful in pushing the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) across the finish line. WRRDA established a Water Infrastructure Finance Innovations Authority (WIFIA) to provide credit assistance for drinking water, wastewater and water resources infrastructure projects. The five-year pilot program should attract substantial private and non-federal investments to water infrastructure projects.

Ensuring the Highway Trust Fund's Solvency. Given inadequate revenues and declining balances, the federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) faced the precarious situation of being unable to support any new spending in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015. The HTF funding crisis put an entire year's worth of highway funding -- \$40 billion -- at risk. ACPPA was a part of a broad group of construction and business groups that successfully educated lawmakers about the consequences of inaction. While not a perfect solution, a crisis was averted, giving near-term certainty to construction markets.

Preserving Important Tax Provisions. ACPPA was part of a coalition of business organizations urging 50 percent bonus depreciation reinstatement and Research and Development tax credit extension. Both were preserved for 2014 and the association will continue to advocate for pro-growth tax policies.

Preventing Regulatory Overreach. ACPPA increased its visibility on regulatory issues in 2014. ACPPA submitted [comments](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Waters of the U.S." notice of

proposed rulemaking, which would dramatically expand the agency's Clean Water Act authority. Additionally, ACPA was successful in exerting pressure on Capitol Hill to ensure that EPA didn't classify coal ash as a hazardous material.

That's just a quick snapshot of some of the things ACPA has been doing on your behalf in Washington. We're expecting 2015 to be just as busy, with highways, water, tax and regulatory reform efforts to be front and center. As always, your involvement and support will be critical to our success. Happy holidays!

EPA Regulation Preserves Coal Ash Recycling

On Dec. 19, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled the [agency's first-ever regulations](#) regarding the disposal of coal residuals. The agency chose not to designate coal ash, a byproduct of combustion from coal-fired power plants, as hazardous waste.

Construction industry groups have praised the decision, noting the beneficial reuse of fly ash – which would have been prohibitive, had the rule defined coal ash as hazardous – in concrete, asphalt and other building materials saves billions of taxpayer dollars. The [American Road & Transportation Builders Association](#) estimates building roads, bridges and airport runways would have cost taxpayers an additional \$105 billion over the next 20 years if fly-ash were not available.

Since the EPA initially proposed regulating coal ash in 2010, ACPA and its industry allies had been steadfast in urging the agency and Congress to carefully consider the potential impact the "hazardous waste" label would have on the construction sector. In 2013, the House passed [bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. David McKinley \(R-W.Va.\)](#) encouraging the recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals.



Click the image above to read more about coal ash on EPA.gov.

While the Senate failed to consider this legislation, many analysts believed bipartisan political pressure from Capitol Hill forced the EPA to significantly moderate the final rule. It appears the agency responded to that pressure, and listened to calls from ACPA and other private industry groups, by preserving coal ash recycling practices.

It's Time To Govern

By Jay Timmons, President and CEO, National Association of Manufacturers.

The months of campaigning, fundraising and getting-out-the-vote efforts have come to an end. For the [National Association of Manufacturers](#) (NAM), we can close the book on unprecedented election outreach in 2014, educating millions of potential manufacturing voters nationwide and helping deliver a stronger delegation for manufacturers in Washington.



Jay Timmons is the president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers. Click on the image to read his full biography.

Now the hard work begins, and voters have made clear their motivations. In a post-election survey by [McLaughlin & Associates](#), 64.3 percent of voters said the United States was on the wrong track. Just one day before Election Day, a *Wall Street Journal* and NBC survey found Congress with an approval rating of just 12 percent. In that same survey, 77 percent of respondents named either job creation/economic growth or ending gridlock/getting things done as the top issue behind their vote for Congress.

So the election wasn't just a referendum on the president. It was a call for leadership – for a government that works to spur job creation and ignite widespread and long-term economic growth.

That's why the NAM's message to the president and Congress is very basic: It's time to govern – to come together for real solutions that allow us to take full advantage of our high productivity, world-leading innovation and the boom in reliable and affordable domestic energy.

Manufacturers know that if Washington gets its act together, we can unleash these advantages to improve our economy in a meaningful way. And, beyond the short-term benefits, if Washington acts now on the policies manufacturers need, we can seize global manufacturing leadership for generations, securing pathways to the middle class, to stable and secure retirements and to a future where America's possibilities are only limited by our dreams.

Some will misread this election's mandate and seek to divide Americans, satisfy populist sentiment and serve up a campaign platform for 2016. Others have chosen to emphasize select polls and turnout instead of the results, trying to dismiss the decisive outcome for a new direction. The window for divisive tactics or out-of-touch rhetoric must end now.

Elected officials need to renew the faith of the American people in our government and in our institutions. And Americans, most notably those in the business community, must continue to counter those who distract from the goal of economic growth.

Manufacturers in the United States are growing the economy, but we can't do it alone. We're asking our elected officials to just solve problems:

- Extend important tax policies.
- Approve the Keystone XL pipeline.
- Make comprehensive tax reform happen, including for companies that operate as "S"-corporations or as other "flow-through" entities.
- Invest in our aging infrastructure.
- Fix our nation's broken immigration system.
- Stop the Environmental Protection Agency's assault on American energy security.
- Move Trade Promotion Authority.
- Enact regulatory reform.

The facts back us up on the need for these vital initiatives. For example, a recent NAM-commissioned study found that a sustained investment in our nation’s aging infrastructure would increase jobs by almost 1.3 million at the onset of initial investment, return three dollars for every dollar invested and grow real GDP by 2.9 percent by 2030.

Manufacturers are realistic about the chances of moving many of our priorities. It’s not going to be easy. No one can predict with certainty how the new-look divided government will operate. But as a manufacturing economy we’re ready to work with the president and Congress to achieve real leadership—and results.

It’s time to work with anyone who sincerely wants to get this country moving again. It’s past time to govern to bring about the solutions our people and businesses need. It’s about time to build on our progress, together, and make this nation prosperous and proud.

Editor’s note: ACPPA periodically invites members of Congress and other policy leaders to provide commentary in Actionline. The views expressed are those of commentators, not necessarily ACPPA. Jay Timmons is the president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers, the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector. ACPPA is a long-time NAM member. Timmons became NAM president in January 2011.

The Lame Duck Home Stretch: President Signs \$1.1 Trillion Dollar Elephant on the Hill

It’s official ... the government will remain funded through September 2015. On Dec. 16, President Obama signed the so-called “CRomnibus,” the 1,603 page, \$1.1 trillion legislation that keeps the government open well into the next calendar year. In addition to financing most government programs until next fall, the law also maintains federal investment in infrastructure projects.

Specifically, with highway reauthorization on the horizon, Congress kept federal-aid highway obligation limitations at FY 2014 numbers-- \$40.2 billion. Similarly, Congress preserved water infrastructure investment at stable levels by providing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) with \$1.4 billion and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) with \$906 million. Maintaining current SRF funding has been a priority for ACPPA as the program has seen dramatic 32 percent cuts since 2010.

Fiscal Year	SRF Water Infrastructure Funding
2010	\$1.387 billion for DWSRF & \$2.1 billion for CWSRF
2011	\$963 million for DWSRF & \$1.522 billion for CWSRF
2012	\$918 million for DWSRF & \$1.466 billion for CWSRF
2013	\$918 million for DWSRF & \$1.466 billion for CWSRF
2014	\$906 million for DWSRF & \$1.449 billion for CWSRF
2015	\$906 million for DWSRF & \$1.449 billion for CWSRF

In 2014, we came face-to-face with the consequences of Congress failing to pass a spending bill, and watched the federal government close its doors as a result. Now that the president has signed the CRomnibus, the historically unproductive 113th Congress can at least depart Capitol

Hill having avoided another politically costly shutdown while also providing some welcome news to the industry.

President Signs Bill to Reinstate Bonus Depreciation, Increased Sec. 179 Expensing for 2014

On Dec. 19, 2014, President Obama signed the [Tax Increase Prevention Act \(H.R. 5771\)](#).

The legislation reinstates dozens of tax provisions that expired at the end of 2013, including 50 percent bonus depreciation and the research & development tax credit. These retroactive changes only apply to 2014.

*For more information, visit the
Depreciation Bonus
Information Clearinghouse
(www.depreciationbonus.org).*

The [House](#) and [Senate](#) both approved H.R. 5771 during their final weeks in session as the 113th Congress. While the move provides small consolation for 2014, the future remains uncertain. Despite calls from the business community to extend the expired tax provisions into 2015 and beyond, politics got in the way of good policy. Currently, it is unknown when or whether Congress will take up the tax extenders issue next Congress.

Pressure Pipe Post

ACPPA's Monthly Source for Industry News

December 2014

To keep members aware of the activities of government and standards organizations, we regularly sweep public databases and publications for the industry-specific terms indicated below. We then provide our members with links to documents identified in the search. Please note that in some cases the URLs may link to subscription-only databases. The purpose of this service is to identify emerging threats and trends as well as opportunities for collective action by ACPPA.

Search Terms:

Pressure Pipe
Concrete Pressure Pipe

Cement
Fly Ash

Silica Fume

NEWS RESULTS

Pressure Pipe

Fire Hydrant Floods Home, Sends Water Shooting Into Air

12/22/2014 <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Hydrant-Floods-Home-Sends-Water-Shooting-Into-Air-286540111.html>

A Montgomery County home was flooded Monday morning after a fire hydrant broke away from a pipe and sent a million gallons of water shooting into the air.

Wastewater Options Explored

12/21/2014 <http://www.roanoke-chowannewsherald.com/2014/12/21/wastewater-options-explored/>

Is the answer to the wastewater woes at Merchants Commerce Park to look at other options to handle the sewage connected with the expected growth in that area?

Insights into Pipe Selection for Trenchless Projects

12/1/2014 http://trenchless-australasia.com/news/insights_into_pipe_selection_for_trenchless_projects/090301/

The selection of pipe material is an important consideration when designing road, river and rail crossings and other trenchless installations. Here, we look at the most utilised types of pipe selected for trenchless applications.

Concrete Pressure Pipe

Merit Shop Contractors, Business Interests Stare Down ‘Ambush’ Election Catalysts

12/17/2014 <http://www.concreteproducts.com/news/8705-merit-shop-contractors-business-interests-stare-down-ambush-election-catalysts.html#.VJjHPI4AKA>

The Coalition for a Democratic Workplace, representing a wide range of business groups—National Precast Concrete Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, Portland Cement Association and American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association among them—will challenge the NLRB Representation-Case Procedures rule in federal courts, arguing the agency’s action “paves the way for unfair and illegal ‘ambush’ elections.”

Cement

Infrastructure Improvement Project Coming to a Close

12/20/2014 <http://citizensvoice.com/news/infrastructure-improvement-project-coming-to-a-close-1.1805624>

Aqua Pennsylvania announced on Friday that the \$10 million infrastructure improvement program in its White Haven division is coming to a close, with most projects completed or near completion.

Regional District Finds Leak in Main Outfall Pipe

12/17/2014 <http://www.nanaimodailynews.com/news/regional-district-finds-leak-in-main-outfall-pipe-1.1685925>

The Regional District of Nanaimo aims to repair damage in the next two days after uncovering a leak in the main outfall pipe from the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre. The pipe carries treated sewage and wastewater to the ocean. The RDN discovered two leaks in the 41-year-old structure last week.

Ruptured Pipe Installed Incorrectly Years Ago, Reedsport Officials Say

11/28/2014 <http://www.kcby.com/news/local/Ruptured-pipe-installed-incorrectly-years-ago-Reedsport-officials-say-284183811.html>

City officials say the pipe was installed incorrectly many years ago, causing the break. "One of the main issues is that the pipe is asbestos cement pipe," Public Works Director John Stokes said. "It's very very old and that was the standard 40-to-60 years ago and over so many years those things begin to fail and they get weaker in some areas if you have wet soil conditions."

Fly Ash

Lignite Industry Supports EPA Fly Ash Rule

12/22/2014 <http://www.kfyrtv.com/home/headlines/Lignite-Industry-Supports-EPA-Fly-Ash-Rule-286616701.html>

North Dakota's lignite industry says it supports the EPA's decision to classify coal ash as a non-hazardous waste.

Residents Ask: Do Coal Ash Changes Go Far Enough?

12/22/2014 <http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2014/12/22/do-coal-ash-changes-go-far-enough/>

For decades residents in Beaver County have lived next to a sprawling lagoon called Little Blue — the largest coal ash impoundment in the nation — which has leached chemicals into their groundwater and wells.

EPA Decides That Coal Ash, Which Pervades Our Homes, Is Non-Hazardous

12/19/2014 <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/energy/2014/12/141219-coal-ash-spill-epa-energy-news/>

From roof shingles to drywall to concrete countertops, products made with leftover waste from coal-fired power plants are in many U.S. homes

New Federal Rules Allow use of Coal Ash at Lafarge

12/19/2014 <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/New-federal-rules-allow-use-of-coal-ash-at-Lafarge-5969636.php>

First-ever federal rules on waste coal ash from power plants will continue to allow ash, which contains mercury and other toxic heavy metals, to be used to make cement, as has been done for years at the Lafarge North America cement plant in Ravenna.

Coretrack Begins Construction of Fly Ash Ceramic Proppant Plant

12/4/2014 <http://www.indmin.com/Article/3407364/Coretrack-begins-construction-of-fly-ash-ceramic-proppant-plant.html>

Although traditionally ceramic proppants are manufactured using bauxite and kaolin, Coretrack says it can lead the market with its fly ash ceramic proppant.

Researchers Explore the Potential for Using Fly Ash in Concrete

12/1/2014 <http://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/researchers-explore-the-potential-for-using-fly-ash-in-concrete>

The UK Quality Ash Association is sponsoring research into the recovery and use of stockpile fly ash for construction materials.

Replacing Portland Cement

12/1/2014 <http://www.iom3.org/news/replacing-portland-cement?c=1359>

The construction industry has been caught with its trousers down with the rapid increase in construction coming out of the recession.

Charah Wins new LG&E contracts

11/24/2014 <http://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2014/11/24/charah-wins-new-lg-e-contracts.html>

Louisville-based Charah Inc., a company that provides back-end services for coal plants across the country, has signed new contracts related to three LG&E and KU Energy LLC facilities.

REGULATORY RESULTS

Pressure Pipe

Dept. of Commerce | Notice of Scope Rulings | Large Diameter Carbon and Alloy Seamless Standard, Line and Pressure Pipe from Japan

12/8/2014 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-11/pdf/2014-29130.pdf>

The Department of Commerce ("Department") hereby publishes a list of scope rulings and anticircumvention determinations made between July 1, 2014, and September 30, 2014, inclusive. We intend to publish future lists after the close of the next calendar quarter.

Fly Ash

Environmental Protection Agency | Final Rule | Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities

12/19/2014 <http://www2.epa.gov/coalash/coal-ash-rule>

EPA finalized national regulations to provide a comprehensive set of requirements for the safe disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCRs), commonly known as coal ash, from coal-fired power plants.