



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Colorado

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC/CO) is a trade association representing over 230 consulting engineering firms in private practice employing over 10,000 people in Colorado.

- Our membership is composed of the engineering disciplines in the built environment that will benefit by this bill since they work in the energy, natural resources, and infrastructure engineering arenas.
- Our members have the technical expertise to develop these new innovative concepts and technologies and the business expertise that will spur economic development when they implement them.

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Colorado asks for your support of HB13-1001: The Advanced Industry Grant Program.

We commend the state's commitment to support these advanced industries and to offer these grants that will help offset costs to develop new concepts and technologies especially for small businesses.

- **Companies that do infrastructure engineering will be able to use grant money to help develop this new concepts.**
 - Some firms are putting forth very innovative ideas that address the challenges of our crumbling infrastructure by submitting unsolicited proposals.
 - As part of the grant process, it is important that everything be kept confidential, starting with the grant applications through the final innovation. Companies need to maintain their competitive advantages.
 - Given state procurement rules, the project will be competitively bid at some point, but companies will need to know that the company's innovative concepts will not be released to their competitors. In the case of highway projects, everyone will have a chance to compete once the concept is accepted by the CDOT.
- **Although there is a preference given to Colorado headquartered offices, we hope those who review the grant applications will consider engineering firms not headquartered here.**
 - There are many national engineering companies that have branch offices in Colorado. They have been based here for many years and have designed many of the large transportation infrastructure projects that have gone on in the state – for example, TREX, COSMIX, DIA, FastTracks and now the I-70 congestion challenges. There are also a lot of branch offices of national firms who do water infrastructure engineering.
 - These large firms team with our small engineering firms to produce outstanding projects that have benefitted the citizens of Colorado. It is through their participation on these teams that small engineering firms are able to show their innovative concepts and technologies, and lend their expertise to the project.
 - On these large infrastructure proposals, it will most likely be the large companies that will be able to develop large proposal efforts due to the significant development time and costs. It is difficult for small companies to lock up their top talent for this length of time to develop these proposals.

- It is your intent to continue to demonstrate that Colorado is a great place to do business and you are encouraging innovative companies to move to Colorado. Encouraging national engineering firms to have a branch office in Colorado should also be your goal, and be eligible to apply for these grants.
- For these types of companies, please consider a means that requires the grant money to be spent in Colorado than sent to their headquarters in another state. We want to maximize the benefit of the innovation that these companies bring to our state because it benefits all Coloradans.
- **The permitting process needs to be improved to be able to get these new technologies into the market as efficiently as possible.**
 - Providing this grant money is one way to help accelerate the commercialization of technologies. ACEC/CO is always willing to work with regulatory agencies such as Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to improve processes to get these new technologies through the permitting process quickly.
 - We recognize that CDPHE has a responsibility to protect the public. My members have that responsibility too. As professional engineers, they have a duty to protect the public's health, safety and welfare; their license, their livelihood, their commitment to their communities depends on meeting that duty.
- **ACEC/CO welcomes the opportunity to be one of the Colorado-based Associations of these Advanced Industries at the table to assist in implementation of this program.**
 - Our membership is composed of principals and owners of consulting engineering firms throughout the state; they are entrepreneurs.
 - Over two-thirds of our members are small businesses employing less than 30 people.

ACEC requests support of HB13-1001.

Respectfully submitted by
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ACEC/CO Executive Director

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