

ASCE 2016 Legislative Fly-In

The ASCE 2016 Legislative Fly-In was a great experience for the Virginia Key Contacts to spend time with our members of Congress and their staff to provide our civil engineering knowledge on infrastructure. We had eight (Stephen Curtis, David Gehr, Caleb Hurst, Ernest Rojas, Bryan Stevenson, Jeff Tan, Robert Warren, and Daren Williams) of our fifteen Key Contacts in attendance. The Washington Metro System did declare a safety shutdown on March 15 notifying all potential passengers that rail transit was suspended from midnight March 16 to midnight March 17. The safety shutdown did cause traffic delays and Congressional volunteer staff members were asked to stay home. Some of our Virginia Key Contacts might have been disrupted due to this emergency safety shutdown.

In order to prepare for the Fly-In there were three Fly-In webinars to educate volunteers on how to communicate with Congress and their staff. Participating in the preparatory webinars assisted attendees during the Fly-In. The issues and information presented by ASCE Government Relations staff the evening before and morning of the Fly-In are adequate to speak during the meetings, but proper preparation will guarantee a successful Fly-In. The issues we focused on for the Fly-In were Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization, Water Resources Development Act 2016, and Water Infrastructure and FY 2017 Appropriations.

We departed from the, Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, 30 minutes earlier than scheduled to accommodate the increased vehicular traffic from the Washington Metro System safety shutdown. For the first two hours we met with our local House of Representatives. For the last two hours we all met with Senator Warner's Legislative Counsel (the exception of two who had a scheduled appointment with a Representative) and with Senator Kaine's Legislative Assistant respectively. The day was concluded with a reception in the Rayburn building.