

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTION OF THE SAINT LOUIS SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS RECOMMENDING DISAPPROVAL OF THE CREATION OF AN ASCE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the ASCE National Board of Direction is considering the creation of a Political Action Committee (PAC); and,

WHEREAS, the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) has established and maintains a PAC, with civil engineers comprising the largest engineering specialty among NSPE members being already represented to their legislators via a PAC; and

WHEREAS, the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and its state affiliates have established and maintain PACs, with many civil engineers in the employ of ACEC member firms, and their interests represented to their legislators via PACs; and

WHEREAS, civil engineers who are members of NSPE or of ACEC member firms would be likely to divide their PAC contributions between ASCE and other PACs, with the probability of leaving each PAC with less funding than they now receive; and

WHEREAS, ASCE is understood as, and accepted by, the general public as a technical society whose primary mission is to advance the goals of civil engineering for the good of the public, not just the for gain to civil engineers themselves; and

WHEREAS, it is that understanding that causes the public and the legislators who represent it, to rely upon the judgments of the ASCE and its members to the extent that, the Infrastructure Report Cards are accepted and quoted by news media and legislators without reservation and without cynical assumptions that Infrastructure Report Cards represent an attempt to market services, and that following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Congress and the public were eager to hear the findings of ASCE panels regarding the levee failures in New Orleans and considered those findings to be professional evaluations, not self-serving opinions; and

WHEREAS, it has thus been demonstrated that ASCE already has significant political acceptance with a high degree of general public support; and

WHEREAS, The operation of an ASCE PAC will place this relationship with the public at great risk, such that ASCE will appear to be just one of many groups seeking access and influence; and

WHEREAS, the confidence of the public in ASCE's ability to bring opinions based on objectivity and technical expertise to matters of public concern will be severely eroded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTION OF THE ST. LOUIS SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS THAT THIS BOARD WITHHOLD SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF AN ASCE-PAC, AND THAT THIS BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTION OF ASCE SHOULD NOT CREATE AN ASCE-PAC.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED as of this 19th Day of July, 2006

Respectfully Submitted



Gene L. Rovak July 19, 2006
President-Elect, St. Louis Section, ASCE