



ACEC Florida Region 2 PAC Event

May 28, 2025

On May 28, 2025, ACEC Region 2 hosted their annual ACEC/PAC Boat Cruise Event on the



Casa Mia. Local ACEC Engineering Leaders from Chen Moore & Associates, ECS, Eisman & Russo, EGS, ETM, Haskell, HNTB, Kimley Horn, Prime AE, RS&H, and VIA Consulting Services raised funding for the ACEC PAC and had the opportunity to meet and talk with Congressman Rutherford, who presented a unique perspective on the state of the Congress and important

initiatives that he is working on behalf of our community and country. He also discussed important topics such as H.R. 1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Work Force Development, and the upcoming Transportation Funding Bill.

During our discussion, Congressman Rutherford explained how H.R. 1 maintains the current tax breaks for businesses as well as the important research and development tax breaks. These important tax incentives are critical to the sustainability of our engineering companies. Although there were long discussions and negotiations, the bill has passed the House and is now before the Senate. Congressman Rutherford urged us to **reach out to our Senators** to show support for this bill and encourage them to pass the bill soon.

The group discussed the importance of workforce development in the engineering industry, as well as international engineering students not able to stay in the United States and contribute after graduation due to lack of Visa or Green Card. With the shortage of engineers, the group encouraged support for finding an opportunity to maintain this new talent within the United States and not send them to our competitors.

The current Transportation Funding Bill will expire in 2026, a new bill is being drafted and will hopefully be ready to implement before the expiration of the current bill. Congressman Rutherford was very supportive to fund transportation projects at least at the same levels as the last bill and make sure other transportation areas such as Ports and Airports are included. The group discussed the concern of the current funding methodology of the gas tax model and the challenges that electric and hybrids vehicles present by not fully paying their fair share. Understanding that this is a politically challenging topic, the Congressman did agree that the system needed a rebalancing on how transportation projects are funded.

Jacksonville Councilman Chris Miller was also able to attend the event and shared with us his perspective of the future opportunities and challenges upcoming for the City of Jacksonville. After the main discussions, those on the boat were able to talk one on one with the Congressman and the Councilman.

After a great evening with the Congressman and the Councilman, Pete Sheridan, PE (ACEC Florida PAC Champion and Region 2 Director) presented Congressman Rutherford a check from the ACEC/PAC as a small token of the industry's appreciation for all his efforts in congress the engineering industry.



ACEC of Florida continues to set up great events similar to this one to connect our engineering firms with legislative leaders and also to bring awareness for the need to continue to support the ACEC Federal PAC. This event was a tremendous example of this type of initiative. I would like to thank all those that participated and supported the event as we raised \$14,000 for the ACEC/PAC. Thank you!

