



## **2017 NATIONAL POLICY AGENDA**

## About ACMA

The American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) is the world's largest composites industry trade group. We are manufacturers, material and equipment suppliers, distributors, academia and end users, dedicated to growing the composites market. We serve our members and the industry by promoting the competitive advantage and versatility of composite materials. ACMA offers composites industry educational resources through our CAMX show, conferences and Certified Composites Technician (CCT®) program. We develop standards and specifications that drive preference for the use of composites in place of traditional materials. We lead advocacy efforts via legislative and regulatory channels to achieve a more viable composites industry. Together, we are shaping the future of composites. Learn more at [www.acmanet.org](http://www.acmanet.org).

## About Our Industry

ACMA represents an industry of approximately 3000 composites manufacturers and suppliers that employ more than 300,000 Americans and generates over \$50 billion in revenues per year. We provide jobs in communities large and small in every state and every Congressional district around the country.

Our member companies are almost exclusively small businesses manufacturing products that protect our troops, generate clean energy or enhance energy efficiency; protect our environment, enhance our infrastructure, and enable the disabled. Our products are light-weight, high-strength, durable, long-lasting, and resistant to corrosion and degradation.

More specifically our products:

- Improve fuel efficiency and performance in aircraft, cars, trucks, RVs and trains
- Make underground fuel storage tanks that don't leak
- Turn wind into electricity
- Clean emissions from coal-fired electric plants
- Transport compressed gasses
- Enable the disabled
- Protect our troops
- Make highway bridges that don't rust
- Strengthen our electric and water utility systems
- Create a host of recreational, art, and architectural products that make life more beautiful and fun

## WE BELIEVE

**Federal and state policymakers should greater deploy composites to make infrastructure perform better, last longer, and cost less over the course of its life.**

- **ACMA supports the creation of a “21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure” program** as part of the forthcoming infrastructure legislation. The program should provide additional federal money for projects that deploy innovative materials in pre-fabricated bridge structures.
- **ACMA supports efforts by Congress and the Federal Highway Administration to strengthen the asset management efforts of the states** and hold them accountable for meeting key performance measures.
- **ACMA supports the creation of a coastal infrastructure resiliency program**, deploying innovative materials and technologies to strengthen bridges, waterways, treatment systems, utility structures and other public assets in areas prone to corrosion and natural disaster.
- **ACMA supports legislation directing power utilities to develop resiliency plans** that incorporate high performance structures to improve grid reliability. ACMA further encourages the creation of a federal grant program at the Department of Energy to make money available to implement key aspects of their resiliency plans.

## WE BELIEVE

**Federal research initiatives focused on infrastructure should partner with the composites industry to identify and overcome barriers that limit wider adoption of composite materials in infrastructure markets.**

- **ACMA is committed to engaging with the Transportation Research Board and Congress** to ensure a transparent process and robust action plan for their FAST Act and WRDA innovative materials studies.
- **ACMA encourages efforts by the National Institute of Standards and Technology** to partner with the industry and asset owners toward the development of additional standards and test methods for composites in infrastructure.

## **WE BELIEVE**

**Federal material research programs addressing composites should be robust, reflect the depth and breadth of the industry, substantively engage small and medium enterprises, and focus on commercially viable solutions.**

- **ACMA encourages an indefinite authorization of the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation** and commensurate appropriations for the federal cost share.
- **ACMA supports legislation that authorizes and funds research on recycling** of end-of-life composites and production scrap.

## **WE BELIEVE**

**The US military should further research and appropriately acquire composite solutions that better position America to address 21<sup>st</sup> century global challenges.**

- **ACMA supports the authorization and funding of research by the Department of Defense and the uniform branches that explores ways to reduce weight and lower maintenance costs** of critical military systems and assets without compromising performance and safety.
- **ACMA supports performance-based requirements for acquisition of assets** that limits impact of corrosion and extend the service life of key base infrastructure.

# WE BELIEVE

A positive business environment that allows manufacturers to thrive and compete globally is essential to maintaining the viability and vibrancy of the American composites industry.

- **ACMA is committed to collaborating with federal, state, and local agencies and code officials** to promote regulations that are cost effective, reflect best practices in scientific inquiry, and support good stewardship.
- **ACMA supports tax reform efforts** that incentivize investment and growth and give equal treatment to companies of all sizes and organization types.
- **ACMA encourages US trade policy and participation in international accords** that reduces costs for critical raw materials and increases access to international markets for composite products.
- **ACMA supports collaboration with federal, state, and local economic and workforce development officials** to highlight opportunities for meaningful careers in the composites industry.