

# ADVOCACY:

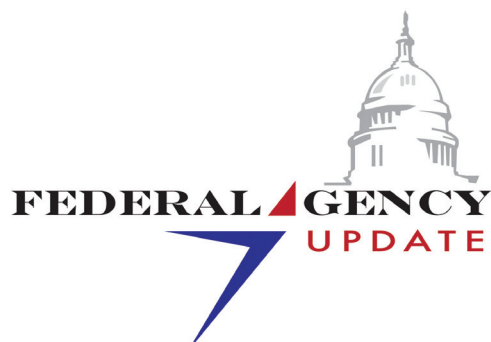
## IRWA's Growing Relevance in the Industry

**MARK RIECK, IRWA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**



Infrastructure is a critical issue for economic policy and quality of life for the citizens of the countries the IRWA serves. It is important for IRWA to be visible among policymakers and particularly the committees that set policy for infrastructure investment, during this time of continued budget turmoil, particularly in the United States, but also in Canada and South Africa.

With this in mind, IRWA took to the Hill in March, conducting a one-day Federal Agency Update in Washington, DC, in collaboration with our federal partners. While there, the International Executive Committee members visited the majority and minority staff of the U.S. House and Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. For details, see the article on page 17 written by International Vice President Lee Hamre, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC.



Advocacy has always been important to the Association, and we are stepping up our efforts to position IRWA as a partner by offering our industry knowledge and expertise to lawmakers and their staff. We have been actively disseminating IRWA's recently published white paper on Successful Project Delivery, as well as providing the Principles of Right of Way Textbook desk reference for their office libraries.

Want to find out where your government officials stand on supporting infrastructure and its future development? To see their policy positions, you can access your country's information on these websites:

**United States:** <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

**Canada:** <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

**South Africa:** <http://www.info.gov.za/feedback/contact.htm>

Wonder what to say to a government official or their staff? Here are the talking points from our recent visit to Washington, DC:

### TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

#### *Talking Points*

- IRWA is the central authority for the right of way profession and a clearinghouse for expertise in public/private use infrastructure projects.
- We believe infrastructure projects begin and end with real estate, which directly impacts the everyday lives of all of us.
- Right of way professionals represent the best interests of those affected by our country's major infrastructure projects.
- IRWA members pride themselves on being current in real estate best practices and are bound to a code of ethics on par with attorneys, physicians and other certified professions.
- Our subject matter experts are available at any time for consultation with the respective committees.
- We offer expertise in valuation, negotiation, acquisition, relocation, environment, surveying, asset management and other disciplines related to public/private infrastructure projects.

I encourage you to join an IRWA social network to stay current on news affecting our nations' infrastructure. Our industry relevance grows as we engage, become knowledgeable and encourage our governments to build and maintain infrastructure for its citizens and with it, quality of life.

