



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



MRCTI MEDIA ADVISORY

December 14, 2020

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--Wednesday Press Zoom Conference Advisory--

Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, & American Society of Civil Engineers Host Press Teleconference *Call on President-Elect to Champion New Level of Local Resilience*

On Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Central, MRCTI mayors joined by U.S. Chamber of Commerce and ASCE representatives will call upon President-Elect Biden to appoint a Chief Resilience Officer in the next administration and urge congress to pass the bipartisan Resilience Revolving Loan Fund bill [S. 3418, STORM Act](#).

The impact of the pandemic, summer heat and flooding, economic volatility, and other ongoing concerns have greatly impacted the Mississippi River corridor, its communities, and businesses. With an incoming administration, the renewed urgency to have White House level leadership on the river's importance could not be timelier. President-Elect Biden has an opportunity to address the need early, during his transition.

Last week, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed the STORM Act. The legislation allows states to offer low-interest loans to counties and cities for disaster mitigation projects. For it to become law, the U.S. House of Representative must to approve the final language and send to President Trump for his signature.

Presiding:

- Hon. Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA, MRCTI Co-Chair
- Hon. Rick Eberlin, Mayor of Grafton, IL
- Hon. Melvin Carter, Mayor of St. Paul, MN

- Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE
 - Executive Director, American Society Of Civil Engineers
- Chuck Chaitovitz, Vice President, Environmental Affairs and Sustainability, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

What:

- Press Video/Tele-Conference with MRCTI Mayors, ASCE and U.S. Chamber of Commerce

When:

- Wednesday December 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. CT (11:00 a.m. ET)



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Where:

- Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88483496665?pwd=QkVIZEdxWtBQUhSTgzQ1dnajRuQT09>

Meeting ID: 884 8349 6665 and Passcode: 920402

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[The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative](#) (MRCTI) is a coalition of 100 mayors from across the Mississippi River corridor, which spans along ten states from Minnesota to Louisiana. The Mississippi River provides drinking water to more than 20 million people and 50 cities. More than 40 percent of the nation's agricultural commodity output moves on the Mississippi River. The River's resources support 1.5 million jobs and generate nearly \$500 billion in annual revenue.

[The American Society of Civil Engineers](#) (ASCE) represents more than 150,000 members of the civil engineering profession in 177 countries. Founded in 1852, ASCE is the nation's oldest engineering society. ASCE stands at the forefront of a profession that plans, designs, constructs, and operates society's economic and social engine – the built environment – while protecting and restoring the natural environment.

[The U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) is the world's largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations. They all share one thing: They count on the U.S. Chamber to be their voice in Washington, across the country, and around the world. For more than 100 years, we have advocated for pro-business policies that help businesses create jobs and grow our economy.