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## Everyone Should Get Involved In Politics

**T**here are so many ways that each one of us can and need to be involved in our industry's future as we seek to capitalize on the technical and market advantages precast/prestressed concrete can offer.

Government relations is an essential aspect of marketing because it influences our fundamental success and growth.

If you are tempted to leave politics to someone else because you feel you do not have the time, you are ignoring an important factor in your company's and our industry's profits and growth. Please do not say "someone else will do it," because it is quite possible that the person you are depending on to get involved will say the same thing.

Instead, show your solidarity with our industry by taking an active interest in the issues that PCI's Public Affairs Committee (PAC) is covering with their successful new Fly-In Program. It is well known that the interest Congress, federal agencies and state legislators take in a particular issue is greatly affected by the number of contacts (mail, faxes, and e-mail) they receive on it, so everyone's participation is important.

The following is a schedule of issues that PAC is involved in this year:

Month	Issues	PAC members
May	GSA Specs and Market	George Southworth
	FAA's Tower Construction	George Southworth
June	FHWA Research	Jim Voss
September	HUD's Housing Market	Mario Bertolini
October	Corps PCI Quality Control	Bill Clayton
November	OSHA Regulations	Mario Bertolini and Sidney Freedman

PCI has already conducted six "fly-ins" by PAC members to Washington, D.C. These volunteers accompanied Cy Malloy, our government relations consultant, in visiting different federal agencies and Cy reports that they have achieved the following:

- Updated all of the federal specifications in terms of our products
- Successfully promoted the mandatory use "at time of bid" of PCI's Plant Certification Program by:
  - Corps Civil Works and Military Construction
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Naval Engineering Facilities Command
- FAA's mandatory use of the PCI Quality Control Program in airport terminal specifications

There are many other issues we must address relative to research and construction, such as:

- Re-authorization of the federal highway program known as ISTEA
- Taking the transportation trust funds off-budget and returning 4.3 cents (\$700 million per fiscal year) used to reduce the federal budget back into the Highway Trust Fund

When an industry is mobilized, it can achieve tremendous competitive advantages. If you would like to volunteer for one of the "fly-ins" or if you have other federal issues that you consider critical, call or fax Cy Malloy at (301) 340-2275. Also, keep an eye on PCI's website for a new quarterly Public Affairs Newsletter coming soon.