

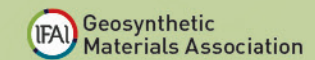
# 10

# YEARS OF GEOSYNTHETICS ADVOCACY

GMA's ongoing government relations success

## About the Geosynthetic Materials Association of IFAI

The Geosynthetic Materials Association (GMA) is the central resource for geosynthetics marketplace members. GMA provides engineering support, business development opportunities, educational programming, and industry recognition. GMA has more than a decade of experience representing the interests of the geosynthetics industry in Washington, D.C., and has successfully influenced legislation encouraging the use of geosynthetics in national and state infrastructure and environmental projects.



GMAnow.com

## 2005

GMA hires a professional lobbying firm in Washington, D.C. to educate Congress and regulatory agencies and to advocate on behalf of the geosynthetics industry.

## 2007

**FEBRUARY**  
Geosynthetic materials are acknowledged and prominently discussed for the first time at a Congressional hearing on the WRDA bill.



## 2010

**MARCH**  
GMA launches a matching funds fundraising campaign to support its government relations program.

**AUGUST**  
At a public hearing in Arlington, Virginia, GMA testifies that coal ash can be safely contained as solid waste and that designating coal ash as hazardous waste is excessive. GMA supports congressional action to encourage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue regulations over coal ash disposal and continues to advocate for use of geosynthetic materials to assist in coal ash disposal and containment.

## 2011

**APRIL**  
Congressman David McKinley (W.Va.-1) introduces H.R. 1391, to "prohibit the EPA from regulating coal combustion byproducts as hazardous waste under Subtitle C of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and for other purposes."

**JULY**  
GMA begins participation in what will be dozens of Utility Solid Waste Activities Group (USWAG) conference calls and D.C.-based meetings regarding actions in the House of Representatives on the McKinley bill.

**AUGUST**  
GMA continues to submit public comments and documentation to the EPA related to pending coal ash legislation.

**SEPTEMBER**  
Through GMA's advocacy efforts, Congressman John Duncan (Tenn.-2) and Frank LoBiondo (N.J.-2) send a letter to Mr. Gene L. Dodaro to request the Government Accountability Office (GAO) perform a study to investigate the life cycle costs and benefits of incorporating innovative materials such as geosynthetics in pavements.

## 2012

**JANUARY**  
GMA meets with the Coal Combustion By-Product Coalition (CCB) and USWAG to discuss pending EPA coal ash containment regulation. GMA is the only non-utility entity present.

**MARCH**  
Congressman John Duncan's office sends a GAO commitment letter to GMA. The letter informs GMA that the GAO is committed to completing the study, highlights the scope of the study and its expected date of completion, and requests assistance from the industry.

**AUGUST**  
The office of U.S. Representative Jack Kingston (Ga.-1) works with GMA to include language about the GAO study and the innovation of geosynthetic materials in the Transportation Appropriation Bill.

**OCTOBER**  
GMA starts its State and Local Advocacy program to educate and promote geosynthetics at the state level.



## 2013

**JUNE**  
GMA provides geosynthetics language to be included in the FY 2014 Transportation, HUD and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

**SEPTEMBER**  
GMA members send letters of support to the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (specifically Chairman Bill Shuster and Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall II) to include geosynthetics language in the Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA).



## 2014

**JUNE**  
Geosynthetics is written into U.S. law for the first time in the WRRDA. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is now required to consider geosynthetics as an innovative material in projects.

**DECEMBER**  
The EPA issues the first national regulations regarding the disposal of coal ash.

## 2015

**JANUARY**  
GMA celebrates 10 years of advocacy and government relations successes at the 2015 Geosynthetics Conference in Portland, Oregon. To date, GMA has held hundreds of meetings in Washington, D.C. and state capitols with members of Congress and policymakers to grow the acceptance and use of geosynthetics at the federal and state level.

## 2006

**JUNE**  
GMA submits language to Congress recommending that the use of geosynthetic materials be included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation.

**JULY**  
GMA hosts its first Lobby Day event in Washington D.C.\*

## 2009

**MARCH**  
Coal ash disposal becomes a prominent issue in Congress and GMA actively educates Congress regarding the benefits of geosynthetic materials usage.



\*GMA hosts two Lobby Day events annually.

