



February 16, 2021

Representative Rob Consalvo
Statehouse
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Consalvo:

We wish to congratulate you on your election to the Legislature and invite you and your staff to join us for the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA MA) annual Freshman Legislators' Breakfast for first-term representatives and senators on **February 24, 2021 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am**.

The event will be virtual, is informal, and will provide an opportunity for you and your staff to network with leaders of the design profession and hear about ways in which we can support the issues of importance to you and your staff.

Please register for the event by clicking [here](#).

In addition to your registration, we hope you will consider providing responses to a three question, multiple choice survey that is intended to help us better understand the issue of most concern to you related to the built environment. That survey can be found [here](#).

Established in 1963, AIA Massachusetts represents over 5,000 architects, design professionals and allied members statewide. We are the state chapter of our national organization, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which consists of over 94,000 members representing more than 200,000 U.S. jobs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, John Nunnari at 617-901-4685 or jnunnari@architects.org.

Once again, congratulations on your new leadership role. We hope to see you on Wednesday, February 24th.

Thank you for considering this invitation.

Russ Feldman AIA
President, AIA Massachusetts



MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Consalvo
From: John Nunnari, Executive Director
Date: 02/16/2021
Re: American Institute of Architects – Massachusetts Chapter

Who is AIA Massachusetts?

For more than 150 years, the members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked to advance our quality of life through design. From designing the next generation of energy-saving buildings to making our communities healthier and more vibrant, from helping neighborhoods rebuild after disasters to exporting American design know-how to the rest of the world, architects turn dreams and aspirations into reality. Decisions are being made every day that affect the way architects practice by federal, state, and local lawmakers, and AIA aims to serve its members as the voice of the profession to the decision-makers at all levels of government.

Nationally, AIA represents more than 90,000 members who are part of an employment base of more than 200,000 U.S. jobs. The AIA represents this extensive constituency on a range of issues, including livable communities; historic preservation; accessibility; procurement; school modernization and construction; urban renewal; brownfields redevelopment; infrastructure security; building code adoption; energy; transportation; and business, tax, and economic policies.

In addition to our critical role in the creation of the built environment, architects occupy important positions as business and community leaders. As such, we are interested in your perspectives on the many challenging issues you would face as members of the Legislature.

A Few Legislative Accomplishments

- 2020/2021 - Climate Change bill – fighting for net zero code provisions to be included in final bill
- 2020 – Helped pass Housing Choice legislation as part of 2020 Economic Development bill
- Climate Adaptation Management provisions included in 2018 Environmental Bond bill
- Strong designer selection laws
- Funding for Community Preservation Act
- 2002 - Chapter 28 pilot program
- Successfully fought efforts to modify MA's Statute of Limitations and Statute of Repose
- Helped Senate to craft language forming the current MA School Building Authority



- Member of the 2004 Construction Reform Commission
- Creation of Emeritus status for retiring architects
- Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010 – Municipal Relief – Fought for inclusion of PACE financing on residential projects
- Recapitalization for Brownfield Redevelopment
- Funding for Historic Preservation Tax Credits
- Lien protection for all licensed professionals (Chapter 424 of A/R of 2010)
- Green Communities Act (Section 55, Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008)

Some Regulatory Work

AIA MA has been asked to participate on a number of state commissions/task forces. The subject matter of each commission/task force varies, but each commission /task force is tasked with solving a particular problem related to the built environment. The state has asked AIA Massachusetts to serve on the following commissions/task forces:

1. Commonwealth Facilities Advisory Council

Purpose: Chapter 165 of the A/R of 2012 required the long-term strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commonwealth's approach to facility management and maintenance is to fully consolidate management and maintenance functions for as many state facilities as appropriate under a single entity.

2. Commonwealth of Massachusetts Accelerated Energy Program

Purpose: The Accelerated Energy Program (AEP) was established in December 2011 to accelerate the implementation of energy and water projects across the Commonwealth and help the Commonwealth comply with Executive Order 484, Clean Energy and Efficient Buildings, signed by Governor Patrick in April 2007. The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) is working with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and other partners to retrofit 700 sites encompassing more than 4,800 buildings throughout the Commonwealth in 700 days.

3. Commonwealth Construction Law Working Group

Purpose: Building on the Construction Reform Laws of 2004 the Construction Law Working Group of 2011 has the following shared goals: improve efficiency of administrative processes for entry into public construction; improve exclusion of "bad actors" from public construction projects; increase access and opportunities for small, minority, and women-owned businesses\workers; and tighten the gap between contract (bid) amounts and actual costs of public projects.

4. MSBA/AIA Working Group to discuss Newtown shooting

Purpose: In April 2013 AIA MA was contacted by Matt Donovan, Chief Operating Officer of MSBA. MSBA was interested in convening a small group discussion on the topic of the Newtown shooting. The question was what, if any, response should MSBA have to this issue. The Working Group discussions have now merged with the



Governors Executive Order 548 which established a cross-secretariat task force on school safety and security

5. Boston Survivors Accessibility Alliance

Purpose: DPS has established the Boston Survivors Accessibility Alliance (BSAA) to assist those who may need assistance with renovations to help transition to a new lifestyle. The focus of these services is on home modifications; however, consideration may be given to modifications to businesses owned by the individual. Modifications may include construction of ramps, widening doorways to accommodate wheelchairs, reconfiguring bathroom or kitchen space or other appropriate renovations. The group will focus on assisting individuals in obtaining suitable design and construction services, sorting through permitting and approvals processes, and general guidance through what may otherwise be a daunting task. All services will be donated and all fees waived.

6. Blended Building Code

Purpose: Work with the Building Board of Regulations and Standards (BBRS) to ensure that instead of the current practice of taking the ICC's base building code and adding Massachusetts "front-end" amendments to it, AIA MA will work to ensure that the upcoming 9th edition of the state building code is "blended", meaning that all MA amendments are "blended" into ICC's base IBC/IRC language.

7. AIA MA/ACEC/DCAM Working Group

Purpose: DCAM needs a place to interface with the AE community, break down barriers and be honest with each other. DCAM needs to review policy and procedures that have been in place for a long time, and see what can be improved. Designers can be helpful in shaping this future direction. Items for discussion within the group include: BIM; LEAN for construction; integrated project delivery; design excellence; ADA and MAAB; construction administration and design fees; MBE\WBE goals and changes; CM process; study and design work plans; 179D tax deduction; and house doctor selection process.