

AIA Las Vegas Hosts U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

AIA Las Vegas hosted U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto for a fireside chat on the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act and the role architects can play as the landmark housing law moves into implementation.

The conversation underscored that addressing housing supply requires architects' expertise beyond the number of units produced. Senator Cortez Masto discussed how housing policy intersects with infrastructure, federal land, affordability, energy and water use, extreme heat, wildfire, drought, and the long-term resilience of Nevada communities.

Specific discussion included modernization of the HOME program, preservation and infrastructure investment in manufactured housing communities through PRICE, challenges created by Build America, Buy America requirements, LIHTC, community land trusts, and opportunities to use federal land responsibly for housing and economic growth while protecting conservation priorities.

A major focus was implementation. Many provisions within ROAD will require additional funding, federal rulemaking, and decisions about program priorities. Senator Cortez Masto encouraged architects to engage directly, telling attendees, "There are so many opportunities for architects to get involved, to collaborate and share ideas."

For AIA Las Vegas, the discussion reinforced the importance of bringing architects' practical design and project-delivery expertise into policymaking as federal housing programs move from legislation to communities.

AIA Tampa Bay Hosts Danish Delegation

AIA Tampa Bay hosted a delegation from the Embassy of Denmark at the beginning of September to exchange ideas on how to build communities that are connected, resilient and sustainable. Events included a meeting between [Danish Ambassador Jesper Møller Sørensen](#) met with Mayor June Castor and opportunities for Danish and Floridian green energy groups to share examples of urban redesign in Tampa (including Water Street, the Riverwalk and the Gas Plant District) and Denmark.

The diplomatic mission was capped off with a panel discussion with Ambassador Sørensen, Jakob Norman-Hansen of BLOXHUB_, Darren Morse of Strategic Property Partners' and Trent Green, Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at University of Southern Florida. This event was [reported on](#) by Fox 13 Tampa Bay.

AIA at Climate Week NYC

New York City hosts its annual Climate Week NYC from September 20 -28, and AIA will be advocating for architects' role in creating a more resilient built environment:

[Monday, September 21: Resilient and Regenerative Design – Architects and policymakers on building the future.](#) President Illya Azaroff shares the stage with Congressman Paul D. Tonko (NY-20) to discuss how the built environment can create

lasting environmental, social, and economic benefits while helping communities thrive in the face of increasing climate-related risks.

[Wednesday, September 23: Regenerative Design: Embracing a New-Old Mindset](#). Illya will deliver opening remarks for this half-day event: This session explores how regenerative design builds upon enduring lessons from passive design, vernacular architecture, Indigenous knowledge, and systems thinking that have long worked in harmony with local climates, ecosystems, and available resources.

[Wednesday, September 23: Building Homes that Strengthen Community Resilience](#). Illya moderates a panel of mayors from the Climate Mayors Leadership Forum. This session will examine concrete, replicable strategies that mayors are deploying to accelerate housing production while integrating climate-aligned practices. The panel of mayors includes:

- Rex Richardson, Mayor of Long Beach, CA
- Quinton Lucas, Mayor of Kansas City, MO
- Mayor Eileen Higgins, Mayor of Miami, FL
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[Wednesday, September 23: State Game Changers: Making Climate Resilience Easier to Deliver](#). Amal Mahrouki from AIA's Government Affairs & Public Policy team joins a panel to interrogate the question: Which changes to state laws, policies, institutions, and funding systems would have the greatest practical impact on local resilience delivery?

[Thursday, September 24: The Climate Readiness Imperative for Mission-Critical Facilities](#). Illya joins a panel of leaders from industry, economic development, insurance and resilience experts to examine how the realities of climate change are reshaping capital planning, infrastructure performance, operational continuity, and long-term asset value.

AIA Supports HUD-Financed Buildings to Withstand Current and Future Flooding

AIA recently issued a [comment letter](#) opposing the proposed rescission of HUD's Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) rule. If enacted, this proposal will put people and communities at risk and result in increased costs. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the U.S. with a total estimated cost of over \$180 billion each year. Maintaining the FFRMS rule would ensure that essential flood mitigation and resilience are incorporated when HUD properties are rehabilitated, in addition to requiring those measures for new construction projects as well.

The letter, authored jointly with the U.S. Green Building Council, noted its concern that the proposed ruling would terminate HUD's use of sea level rise data, which ultimately increases the vulnerability of federally subsidized housing. Both AIA and USGBC asserted that robust standards of flood resilience should be used by the federal government, especially in light of increased risk of flooding generated by hurricanes, river floods, and sea level rise. For additional information on flood risk in your community, see [NOAA's tools and resources](#).

Trump's Ballroom to Move Forward

On August 31, the Supreme Court of the United States granted the Trump Administration's request to allow construction on a new White House Ballroom, reversing a lower court's decision stopping the project. Read our statement here: <https://www.aia.org/about-aia/press/aia-statement-scotus-white-house-ballroom-decision>

ARPL reports licensing boards targeted in 2026

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing, a coalition of national organizations advocating for rigorous, competency-based licensure standards in highly technical professions, reported that licensure boards are becoming increasingly targeted during the 2026 legislative cycle. For example, Indiana repealed, merged, or restructured more than 60 boards and commissions in a single bill. Florida came within one committee of eliminating 17 independent boards for the second straight year. And governors in states like Oklahoma and Montana are applying the same pressure through vetoes and executive orders. [ARPL's full retrospective](#) breaks down what passed, what was stopped, and what it signals for professions whose boards haven't been targeted yet.