

Revolutionary FAR Overhaul Comments Submitted

AIA advanced two key federal procurement priorities with formal submissions on Parts 15 and 36 of the Administration's Revolutionary Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Overhaul. [In Part 15](#), AIA pressed for a long-sought correction to the federal government's application of the 6% fee limitation, urging clarification that the cap applies only to cost-plus-fixed-fee architect and engineer contracts. [In Part 36](#), AIA reinforced protections for qualifications-based selection under the Brooks Act, including stronger safeguards for mixed-scope procurements, clearer qualification criteria, and appropriate use of QBS in design-build. Together, the submissions build on AIA's direct engagement with the White House and federal procurement officials and position the Institute as an active implementation partner working to modernize acquisition policy while protecting fair competition and the value of professional design services.

Bipartisan Affordability and Jobs Bill Introduced

Just before Congress departed for the election recess, a bipartisan group of Senate committee leaders introduced the *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026*, a major proposal to accelerate federal environmental review and permitting for energy and infrastructure projects. The legislation would establish new deadlines and procedures for reviews under laws including NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act, while also significantly narrowing when certain environmental and historic impacts must be considered, mitigated, or subject to judicial review. Supporters argue the changes would provide greater certainty and help projects move more quickly, while AIA is particularly concerned that provisions affecting Section 106 could weaken meaningful review of impacts to historic and culturally significant places and reduce opportunities for communities and preservation stakeholders to influence project outcomes. AIA supports efforts to make federal permitting more predictable and efficient but opposes reforms that achieve speed by undermining environmental safeguards, historic preservation, or meaningful public participation. AIA currently opposes this bill as written but continues to assess the legislation and engage with congressional offices and preservation partners as the debate moves forward.

AIA Leads on Regenerative Design

On October 13, under the leadership of President Illya Azaroff, the Global Campus for Architecture and Design welcomed approximately 60 leaders from across architecture, the built environment, government, finance, academia, and community development for the inaugural *Regenerative Design Summit*. Explore the [Summit website](#) for session details, resources, an attendee list, and more. The summit brought together diverse perspectives to explore how regenerative design can restore ecosystems, strengthen communities, and shape a more resilient built environment. AIA also released [Creating a Better World Together: Financing and Building Regenerative Design](#), a new report focused on how architects and policymakers can help fund, finance, and deliver regenerative projects. The summit along with this report will help inform AIA's future education, resources, advocacy efforts, and partnerships to advance resilient and regenerative infrastructure.

AIA Participates in Greenbuild

[Greenbuild](#) hosted the largest annual event for green building professionals worldwide where attendees learned and sourced solutions to improve resilience, sustainability, and quality of life in our buildings, cities, and communities. Greenbuild took place from October 20-23, 2026 in New York City. President Illya Azaroff spoke on a panel on sustainable construction practices sponsored by Saint-Gobain and Michael Donovan from AIA's Government Affairs & Public Policy team joined a panel within USGBC's [Designing for Resilience in an Era of Climate and Disaster Risk](#) Summit at Greenbuild.

AIA Marks International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction by Supporting Resilience Legislation

The American Institute of Architects (AIA), in observance of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction as recognized by UNFCCC, on October 13th, came out in support of [three congressional bills](#) aimed at strengthening community resilience before and after disasters: the Ounce of Prevention Act (H.R. 9557), the Community Disaster Protection Act (H.R. 10686) and the Rebuild & Save Act (H.R. 1375). Together, the measures would bolster pre-disaster mitigation, expand access to community-based risk reduction strategies and support resilient rebuilding for property owners and small businesses.

AIA Board Secretary Meets with ICC Board of Directors

Josh Flowers, FAIA, 2025–2026 Secretary of the AIA Board of Directors, joined the International Code Council (ICC) Annual Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, October 17, ahead of the ICC Annual Conference in Nashville. Flowers provided an update on AIA's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and shared AIA's recent work on regenerative design and resilience. As a founding partner of ICC, AIA joined fellow industry partners including NAHB, AGA, BOMA, and ASHRAE for the annual meeting. ICC board members expressed interest in expanding collaboration with AIA and state and local chapters to strengthen codes education and engagement among emerging professionals.

Mayor's Game Changers – Fall Cohort

Game Changers is a new U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) program that brings mayors and resource partners together to develop strategies for creating new sports and entertainment districts or revitalizing existing venues. Modeled on the Mayors Institute on City Design, the program counts AIA as a founding partner. Following a successful inaugural spring session, USCM launched its second cohort in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 6. The fall cohort includes mayors from Mesa, Arizona; West Sacramento, California; Hampton, Virginia; DeSoto, Texas; Portland, Oregon; and Everett, Washington. Participants will continue meeting throughout the fall and will share progress and lessons learned at the USCM Winter Meeting in January 2027.

Public Architecture Symposium

AIA's 2026 Public Architecture Symposium, *Building Public Trust: Advancing Integrity & Collaboration in Civic Architecture*, brought together public-sector architects, design leaders, and government officials to examine the future of civic architecture and public trust. Government Affairs and Public Policy provided a federal policy update on

progress in architect and engineer procurement reform, growing threats to Section 106 and federal historic preservation, and opportunities to strengthen design freedom and protections for federal architecture. The program also featured Thomas E. Austin, Architect of the Capitol, underscoring AIA's role in connecting public architects with federal decision makers and creating stronger feedback loops between professional practice, public-sector design, and AIA's advocacy agenda.

ArchiPAC Event with Rep. Neal

AIA's Government Affairs and Public Policy team joined U.S. Representative Richard E. Neal (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, for an ArchiPAC supported event focused on the political and policy outlook heading into the next Congress. Rep. Neal reflected on a difficult legislative session, the upcoming elections, and the challenges facing Congress on tax and economic policy. AIA used the discussion to thank him for his interest in stronger federal incentives that support fortification, disaster mitigation, and resilience investments in the built environment. The event demonstrated the value of ArchiPAC in helping AIA build and sustain relationships with senior congressional leaders in positions to shape tax policy and other priorities affecting architects, firms, and the communities they serve. For more information about ArchiPAC, visit www.ArchiPAC.org.