

# Federal Policy Wins

## HIGH PROFILE WINS

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### Climate Action in Inflation Reduction Act

- » Continuing AIA's Buildings Are Infrastructure campaign from 2021, AIA successfully secured multiple climate priorities in the Budget Reconciliation package, called the Inflation Reduction Act (H.R. 5376), including:
  - **\$330 million** in grants to states and local governments to adopt the latest energy codes
  - **\$670 million** for jurisdictions to adopt zero-energy stretch codes
  - **\$4.3 billion** for a residential energy rebate program
  - **\$4.275 billion** for an energy-efficient electric home rebate program
  - **\$1 billion** for grants and loans to improve energy efficiency and resilience in affordable housing
  - **Updated tax incentives** for energy efficient commercial and residential buildings, including 179D, 45L, and 25C.
  - **Tax treatment of pass-through entities (57% of firms)** through Sec. 199A of the tax code was maintained, protecting more favorable tax rates for S-corporations, sole proprietorships, and LLCs.
  - AIA staff put together a [comprehensive memo of the building sector provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act](#).
- » These investments are on top of the building sector investments AIA secured in the [bipartisan infrastructure law](#) from 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

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### School Safety

- » AIA, in conjunction with its member-led Committee on Architecture for Education (CAE), advanced the authorization of the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act ([S. 2938](#)).
- » An AIA and member-backed priority since 2018, the Clearinghouse is now ensured to operate through future administrations and features CAE design best practices that create safe and welcoming learning spaces which encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion for the well-being of students and educators.



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## Lobby Day 2022

- » AIA hosted a successful, hybrid Lobby Day in April 2022. The event included live remarks from Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV) on the Democracy in Design Act and recorded remarks from Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) about the Yes In My Backyard Act. Those two bipartisan bills were the focus of the Lobby Day.
- » Congressional support for both bills has grown since the Lobby Day:
  - Democracy in Design Act ([H.R. 5291](#))
    - Earlier this Congress, AIA secured the bipartisan introduction of the Democracy in Design Act, a bill to prevent a federal mandate on architectural design styles.
    - The bill has four cosponsors in the House (two Democrats and two Republicans).
    - A Senate companion bill will be introduced in September.
  - Yes In My Backyard Act (YIMBY) Act ([HR 3198/S. 1614](#))
    - Following Lobby Day, HR 3198 gained an additional six Congressional cosponsors, including four from offices that AIA advocates met with in April.
    - Following Lobby Day, S. 1614 gained an additional Senate cosponsor (Sen. Van Hollen), an office that AIA advocates met with in April.

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## Historic Preservation

- » AIA secured an opportunity for Katie Irwin, AIA to [testify](#) before the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. She provided the bipartisan committee with a starting point to assess and develop improvements to workplaces across the U.S. Capitol Complex.
- » Following Katie's testimony, the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress unanimously approved [29 recommendations](#) to make Congress more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people, several of these recommendations may be attributed to her testimony.
- » In collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and each congressional delegation affected by the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case, AIA successfully championed the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park Expansion and Redesignation Act ([H.R. 920/S. 270](#)) into law.
- » Upon joining the Historic Tax Credit Coalition, AIA's collaborative advocacy has helped usher in a double-digit bicameral and bipartisan increase in sponsorship for the Historic Tax Credit Growth & Opportunity Act of 2021 ([H.R. 2294/S. 2266](#)).



## Resilience

- » AIA worked successfully with Senate staff to ensure AIA-priority legislative text was added to the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy (NCARS) Act ([S. 3531](#)). The bipartisan bill would require the federal government to produce a National Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Strategy that presents a unified federal plan to increase the resilience of frontline communities.
  - AIA’s proposed legislative text encourages the standardization of the term “resilience” across the federal government.
- » AIA led the BRAC coalition in developing two action letters in 2022, including:
  - [BRAC Coalition FY2023 Homeland Security Appropriations Request Letter \(May 17, 2022\)](#)
  - [BRAC Coalition Letter to OMB RE: Recommendations to FEMA’s BRIC Program \(June 13, 2022\)](#)
- » A resilience-focused, bipartisan, AIA-endorsed bill called the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act ([HR 7863/S. 3510](#)) passed the Senate under unanimous consent in June 2022, although it still needs to pass the House. The bill would require OMB to establish guidance requiring the head of each federal agency to incorporate disaster resilience into asset management and investment decisions made by each respective agency.

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## Student Debt Relief

- » AIA’s bipartisan efforts in tandem with House Ways and Means and Education & Labor Committees’ leadership culminated in the Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022 ([H.R. 2954](#)) passing the House in March, which included the AIA-endorsed Retirement Parity for Student Loans Act of 2021 ([H.R. 2917](#)).
  - This has been an AIA priority since 2018. AIA and AIAS [teamed up for a Hill Day](#) in support of the legislation in 2019.
  - While text is forthcoming for the Senate package, AIA has been reassured by both the Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor & Pension Committees favorably approving the H.R. 2917 [provision](#), which would permit employers to provide matching contributions under 401(k) and other tax-preferred retirement plans for employee student loan payments as if those payments were elective deferrals.

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## Participation In COP27

- » For the second year in a row, AIA will be present for the preeminent international convening on climate action: the Conference of Parties (COP). AIA was granted official nongovernmental organization (NGO) observer status in 2021. This year, the two-week event will be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
- It is critical for design thinking to be part of the conversation when world leaders are meeting about climate action.
- More information about AIA's COP27 work is available [here](#).

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## Equity in Affordable Housing

Caucus (CBC) Annual Legislative Conference panel on affordable housing. Entitled "*The Adverse Impacts of the Affordable Housing Crisis on the Black Community*," the panel brought together distinguished experts from across the country and the federal government. 2019 AIA President Bill Bates, FAIA, shared his perspective from the design community alongside Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia Fudge, Congressman Cleaver (D-MO) and Congresswoman Clarke (D-NY).

- » AIA continues to build cosponsor support for federal legislation that would improve affordability, accessibility, energy-efficiency, and resilience of our nation's affordable housing stock.
- This includes building support for Housing Supply and Affordability (HSAA) Act ([H.R. 2126/S. 902](#)), the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement (AHCI) Act ([H.R. 2573/S. 1136](#)) and LIHTC Financing Enabling Long-term Investment in Neighborhood Excellence (LIFELINE) Act ([H.R. 4181/S. 7078](#)).
- AIA-endorsed HOPE for HOMES Act ([H.R. 3456/S. 1768](#)) was the basis for one of the rebate programs passed as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

- » AIA participated in the Congressional Black

