

AIA Talking Points for New Members of Congress

November 2012

- On behalf of the American Institute of Architects and its more than 80,000 members, congratulations on your election to Congress.
- For more than 150 years the AIA has served as the voice of America's architecture profession. Today, AIA members work across America to advance policies that grow the economy and spearhead the next generation of high performing buildings.
- Architects are problem-solvers who policymakers listen to. Moreover, architecture is the leading edge of a design and construction industry that accounts for one in nine dollars of Gross Domestic Product.
- Every \$1 million invested in building design and construction yields 28.5 full-time jobs. When a client hires an architect, 30 additional jobs are created to build what we design.
- Architecture is a small business profession: more than 97 percent of architecture firms employ 50 or fewer people. Many are sole practitioners.
- The economic crisis has severely impacted our industry. According to AIA figures, the architecture profession has lost 60,000 payroll jobs since 2008.
- One of the biggest challenges we face is a lack of financing for construction projects due to a tightening of credit. According to an AIA survey in 2011, nearly two-thirds of architects report a project that was stalled, keeping construction workers off the job.
- Over the next two years, Congress will face many issues that affect the design and construction industry, from tax reform to government spending to small business lending and procurement.
- We hope you will look to us as a resource when these issues arise. In fact, several hundred architects will come to Washington in March as part of our annual Grassroots conference; we look forward to discussing these issues with you on Capitol Hill.
- We also would welcome the chance to show you examples of the work architects do in your district/state, including green buildings, main street revitalization projects, transit-oriented development.
- Thank you for taking the time to meet with us. We look forward to working with you.