

ASLA Goes to the Hill

Members of the Illinois Chapter leadership traveled to Washington D.C. for the ASLA Mid-Year meetings and National Lobby Day April 26-28, 2018. An important part of the Mid-Year Meetings are the efforts lead by the government affairs advisory committee and ASLA Staff to prepare an agenda for nearly 200 members of ASLA to take to their legislators. These efforts allow ASLA to showcase our profession and remind our legislators of the important work we are doing. This year, ASLA spoke to legislators about three key pieces of legislation that in the works.

The Living Shorelines Act – The living shorelines act supports efforts to promote the use of nature-based materials to address shoreline protection and coastal community resilience. Shoreline protection is not limited to ocean states. The Great Lakes along with the Chesapeake Bay and the Mississippi, Colorado and Rio Grande Rivers include important coasts and vulnerable shorelines.



The Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act – Due to limited resources and finances, many state and local governments have found it challenging to maintain water infrastructure systems. Senate Bill 692, the Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act, promotes the use of green infrastructure projects under integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater planning framework. It also creates an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman within the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of the Administrator, which would help provide technical assistance to municipalities to comply with federal water pollution and safe drinking water laws.

The Environmental Justice Act – Senate Bill 1996, The Environmental Justice Act of 2017 and House Bill 4114, would require federal agencies to address environmental justice and require the consideration of the impacts of projects on underserved communities during the permitting process.

I urge all Illinois members to look at the ASLA web site IAdvocate section to learn more and if you have not done so already, contact your representative and please make them aware of these important pieces of legislation.

Give Your Input on Federal Advocacy Priorities

“We want to hear from you! ASLA is requesting feedback from all members on state and federal policy issues important to the profession. Your feedback will help determine ASLA’s federal policy agenda for the next Congress in 2019-2020 and help your states tailor their advocacy efforts. Take this **short survey** and help shape the political landscape.”

Keven Graham, FASLA, PLA, CLARB
ILASLA President-Elect