



President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

30 January 2024

RE: AIA Response Regarding the Request for Comments on the Funding and Work of the American Climate Corps

Mr. President,

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) represents over 98,500 architects and design professionals. Since 1857, AIA has been committed to safeguarding the public's health, safety, and welfare and improving the nation's quality of life through design. Central to that mission is AIA's commitment to advancing more significant equity and resilience in the built environment.

The American Institute of Architects applauds the White House for prioritizing the development and growth of the energy sector workforce. Architects rely heavily on the expertise of skilled trades, often working in partnership with the clean energy sector from the moment a project is awarded to the day construction is finished and the building is open. AIA agrees that it is vital for "new-collar" job sectors to grow exponentially in the coming years.

As issues of resilience and sustainability have become increasingly concerning to communities nationwide, many architecture firms have created specific roles. Many firms have a Director of Sustainability tasked with staying informed about the latest technologies, materials, and methods for developing and retrofitting buildings and communities to withstand extreme climate and weather events and maximize energy efficiency. These Directors of Sustainability also lend their expertise to project teams as they work to design and build resilient and energy-efficient projects. The people in these roles have beneficial insight to offer those in or learning "new collar" jobs.

Architects can be, and are, strong partners for the industry organizations that will take the lead on applying for grants through programs like the Career Skills Training program and community organizations taking the lead on EPA's Community Change Grants Program. Architects can offer valuable information about whole-building energy-efficiency efforts, life-cycle considerations, and potential cost-saving options.

As such, we encourage the American Climate Corps' Executive Committee to consider including architects and similar professions on the list of suitable partners for curriculum development and on-the-job training projects eligible for grant funding. While industry or technology-specific training and education are necessary, we encourage the Executive Committee to consider the benefits

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of training that provides a more holistic understanding of how all the systems within a project work together to improve energy efficiency and resilience.

AIA and its members stand ready to assist in developing and promoting energy sector trades and strongly support the American Climate Corps and its Executive Committee.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Lamore, Sr. Manager, Public Policy
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