



December 10, 2017

Florida Chapter Members:

On November 29th ASLA, the American Institute of Architects, and the National Society of Professional Engineers, joined in sending a letter to leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives expressing concern for the unfair treatment of professional services businesses, including design firms, organized as S Corporations or pass-through businesses in the comprehensive tax reform proposals moving through Congress. If your firm is organized as a pass-through business, use the [Advocate Network](#) to tell your legislators not to cripple landscape architecture firms with higher, unfair tax burdens.

ASLA has also joined with active transportation and bicycle activists in sending a letter to Senate Finance Committee leaders opposing their proposal to eliminate the \$20-per-month bicycle commuter transportation benefit in the U.S. Senate's comprehensive tax reform proposal.

Recently, the Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke [proposed fee increases](#) in 17 national parks—increases that could force entrance fees to increase from \$25 to \$70. ASLA has joined with coalition partners in sending comments to Zinke opposing the fee increases and urging him to support passage of the National Park Service (NPS) Legacy Act, bipartisan legislation that would completely eliminate NPS's maintenance backlog. After public outcry about the fee increases, NPS has extended the [public comment period](#) to December 22. Your voice is needed to tell the administration to keep our national parks affordable for everyone. Also, you can use the [Advocate Network](#) to urge your legislators to support the National Park Service Legacy Act.

Several staff are in Philadelphia this week planning for the ASLA 2018 Annual Meeting and EXPO with a series of meetings and events with teams from the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the Marriott Hotel, members of the Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter, and the Annual Meeting Education Advisory Committee. The annual meeting is scheduled for October 19-22.

*Landscape Architecture Magazine* is finalizing its agreement with JSTOR, the esteemed online [library](#), to have the magazine's entire archive digitized. The agreement will eventually allow ASLA to make the century-plus archive available to members for free as a member benefit. It will also be available to library users worldwide under the Plants and Society Collection. JSTOR should begin sourcing the original magazines imminently for scanning in their original format. The online archive is expected to become available in 2019.

The ASLA Fund sent out its first ever *Giving Tuesday* appeal yesterday to more than 47,000 members, subscribers and friends of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The appeal asks for charitable contributions to the Campaign for the ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture. To make your own contribution, please click on [Giving Tuesday Donation](#).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Best Regards,

David Ferris, RLA

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