



May 1, 2024

AIA Board of Directors
1735 New York Ave NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Members of the AIA Board of Directors,

On behalf of the over 55,000 members of the Large States of AIA, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed amendment to Chapter 2.4 DESIGNATION OF FELLOW, 2.42 Authority of the Jury of Fellows of the Institute Bylaws, conferring fellowship upon elected officers of the organization. We believe this proposed change presents several challenges that could potentially impact the fellowship program and the overall integrity of the AIA.

Foremost, the development of this proposal without input from the College of Fellows is troubling. The fellowship program stands as a cornerstone of excellence within the AIA, and any changes to its structure should be approached with careful consideration and collaboration with key stakeholders. The absence of such input raises questions about transparency and inclusivity within the decision-making processes.

Furthermore, we are apprehensive about the decision to confer fellowship upon elected leaders. This action risks diminishing the value of the honor bestowed upon the select 3% of members who have been elevated to the College of Fellows through a rigorous and deliberative process. While we acknowledge the dedication of our elected leaders, we believe that fellowship should be based on significant contributions to the profession as outlined in the current application process.

Additionally, the lack of engagement with volunteer leaders in the development of this proposal is concerning. Effective communication and collaboration are essential in ensuring that changes align with the organization's

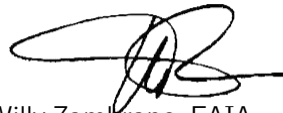
goals and values while garnering support from all stakeholders. The failure to involve volunteer leaders undermines the spirit of partnership and shared responsibility within our community.

In essence, we fear that this proposal reflects a disconnect between the AIA leadership and its membership. Therefore, we strongly urge the AIA Board of Directors to reconsider and refrain from approving the proposed changes to amendment 2.42 of the Institute Bylaws.

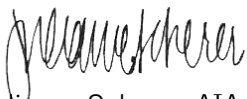
Sincerely,



Winston Thorne, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, CSBA
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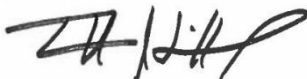
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