



March 5, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leaders Thune, Jeffries, and Schumer:

On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and its 16,000 members, I am writing to urge you to take action to ensure that funds Congress appropriated for projects and programs authorized under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are properly disbursed to intended recipients.

Since the announcement of the Executive Order 14154: Unleashing American Energy, ASLA has heard from many members and landscape architecture firms about their concern for the “[immediate] pause [on] the disbursement of funds appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-58) or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-169).”¹ Many landscape architecture firms performed work on active transportation, water and stormwater management, parks and recreation, biodiversity, and other community infrastructure projects under both the IIJA and the IRA with the expectation of receiving contractual remuneration.

More than ninety percent of all landscape architecture firms are small businesses, including many sole practitioners. As you know, small businesses, such as small landscape architecture firms, are the backbone of the American economy, providing critical jobs and services. These businesses cannot survive severe market uncertainties like the “pause” in funding outlined in Section 7 in the Unleashing American Energy Executive Order. These funding disruptions are leading to project delays, terminations, and economic uncertainty for landscape architecture firms and other design and construction businesses throughout the supply chain. While there have been many subsequent memos and rulings calling for restarting funding, our members are still in a holding pattern.

¹Note: The public law numbers referenced from Executive Order 14154: Unleashing America’s Energy in this passage are incorrect. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is Public Law 117-169, while the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is Public Law 117-58.

Throughout the years, ASLA has worked with Congress on adopting policies that help create resilient, sustainable infrastructure projects. Today, landscape architects are working diligently to ensure that communities across the nation benefit from these projects. However, recent actions are halting progress. Once again, ASLA requests that Congress take action to ensure that IIJA and IRA legislation and funding approved by this body is executed and fairly disbursed to intended recipients.

Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter. I look forward to your response to this urgent issue. Please do not hesitate to contact either me or Roxanne Blackwell, Managing Director of Government Affairs, at rblackwell@asla.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Torey Carter-Conneen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Torey Carter-Conneen, Hon. ASLA
Chief Executive Officer
American Society of Landscape Architects