



Let's Create Jobs That Rebuild and Renew America

The AIA Blueprint for Economic Recovery

America's architects stand ready to help our communities rebuild and renew through common-sense policies that not only create jobs, but lay the foundation for long-term prosperity. Architects employ more than a quarter of a million people and are the leading edge of a design and construction industry that accounts for nearly one in nine dollars of U.S. GDP.

Every \$1 million invested in construction creates 28 full-time jobs. As Congress debates a jobs bill, the AIA urges it to include these five planks to help rebuild and renew our nation:

Help Struggling Communities Rebuild

Across America, communities face unprecedented upheaval from foreclosures and abandonment. Just as they help communities rebuild after natural disasters, architects are ready to help our country recover from this economic catastrophe. Congress should enact the AIA's Rebuild and Renew America's Communities Act to provide grants to rehabilitate abandoned buildings into vital assets like community centers, fire stations, health facilities and libraries, raising property values and restoring vitality to struggling neighborhoods.

Unfreeze Credit to Get America Building Again

Thousands of worthy construction projects that would employ millions of Americans are on hold because credit is frozen. Banks received billions in federal taxpayer bailouts; now it's time to get those banks to lend. The AIA calls on Congress to extend the Term Asset Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF) through 2011, allow the Public Private Investment Program to finance sound construction projects, and enact legislation to promote the use of covered bonds.

Encourage the Commercial Sector to Build Green

Buildings account for 40 percent of carbon emissions and 70 percent of electricity generated in this country. By increasing incentives for green building design and renovation, Congress can stimulate economic activity while securing our energy independence. Congress should increase the Energy Efficient Commercial Building Tax Deduction from the current \$1.80/sf to \$3.00/sf as included in the Expanding Building Efficiency Incentives Act (S. 1637/H.R. 4226).

Provide Relief for Small Businesses

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and they are the first to suffer in an economic crisis. Congress needs to pass the Small Business Financing and Investment Act (H.R. 3854) to make financing more available to small businesses. The Recovery Act COBRA subsidy has also placed a heavy cash flow burden on entrepreneurs who are now forced to choose between paying premiums and making payroll. Congress should help small businesses address this issue.

Invest in Our Children with 21st Century Schools

Investing in green schools is a triple winner: it creates jobs, lowers school district energy bills and creates better learning environments for students and teachers. The House has passed the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 2187) to fund the modernization and renovation of K-12 public schools. Now the Senate needs to act.

For more information, visit www.aia.org/rebuildandrenue, or contact the AIA government relations team at govaffs@aia.org. Follow the AIA government relations team on Twitter @aia_advocacy.