

May 3, 2024

President Kimberly N. Dowdell, AIA, NOMAC  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Dowdell,

AIA Virginia and its local components, AIA Blue Ridge, AIA Northern Virginia, and AIA Richmond, are reaching out to express concern about activities and decisions of AIA National that have been brought forward in widely circulated letters and posts from the College of Fellows and AIA former Presidents.

Proposed amendments to AIA bylaws, specifically Article 2.42, and membership categories, specifically Articles 2.011 through 2.017, raise concerns about the organization's focus and alignment with members' interests. We request that any amendment to Article 2.42 be brought before the entire membership for vote, and that information on financial and policy implications of these proposals be provided to ensure they serve the collective needs of practicing architects.

Transparency and communication deficiencies have sparked unease among members, particularly concerning financial management and operational decisions. While we refrain from making specific allegations, the circulation of speculations regarding mispending and bias is alarming, and risks tarnishing the reputation of the organization as well as the architectural profession itself. These concerns rise to a level in which the judgment of AIA staff and elected leadership is being called into question by the members.

Thank you for your prompt communication to affirm that various letters and posts have been brought to the Board's attention, and that the questions and concerns they contain are being addressed. We're grateful that a third-party investigation will be conducted to determine if nonprofit best practices are being followed, and whether any corrective action is needed.

Organizational transparency and member-engaged processes are critical to support working partnerships with the EVP/CEO, as well as to inspire confidence in board governance and the use of financial resources, which in turn reinforces the member-driven nature of the organization.

We are hopeful that your efforts will result in the ability of AIA staff leaders to engage in their roles cleared of any wrongdoing, supported in their work, and with the opportunity to move forward in partnership with volunteer leaders, staff, and membership of the AIA at all levels.

In summary, we request transparency and timely communication in addressing these concerns and maintaining members' trust. We trust that the Board will prioritize these matters and provide the necessary reassurance to uphold the AIA's integrity.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to our collective interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Callahan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

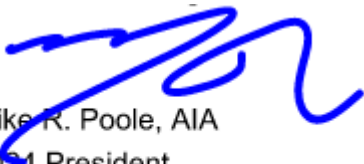
Kelly D. Callahan, AIA  
2024 President  
AIA Virginia



Nick Wade, AIA  
2024 President  
AIA Blue Ridge



Braden L. Field, AIA  
2024 President  
AIA Northern Virginia



Mike R. Poole, AIA  
2024 President  
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