



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
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## Advocacy Updates

February 28, 2017

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Friends and Colleagues,

As many of you know, a bill was recently introduced in the House of Representatives that would terminate the Environmental Protection Agency. As a professional organization that advocates for and leads the stewardship, planning, and design of our built and natural environments, it is important for us to defend the future of the EPA. ASLA recently sent a letter to Representative Matt Gaetz (Florida), the author of the bill, urging him to withdraw consideration of the proposed legislation and issued a statement opposing the measure.

**Now we need your help.** Please **click here** to easily send a letter to your U.S. House Rep urging them to oppose H.R. 861 which would eliminate the EPA. Forward this link on to friends and colleagues across the country too! I hope you will all join this important effort to protect our environment today. Better yet, CALL your representative! It is usually more effective to speak to government officials or meet in person. To find out who your representatives are and get contact info, go to: <http://advocate.asla.org/> and type in your zip code.

Read ASLA's statement here: <https://www.asla.org/NewsReleaseDetails.aspx?id=49960>

Read the letter to Rep. Gaetz here: [https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government\\_Affairs/HR502EPALetter02\\_15\\_17%20EPA%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/HR502EPALetter02_15_17%20EPA%20FINAL.pdf)

### Letter to Mayor De Blasio to Improve Public Spaces for Civic Engagement

Last month a letter to the Mayor was publicized having been drafted by several NYC organizations to bring greater awareness and programming to public space for civic expression. Our Executive Director, Kathy Shea and I have been in conversation with Susan Chin at The Design Trust for Public Space to get involved with the efforts moving forward. Next week we will be meeting with DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg to discuss next steps. We will keep you posted on results of that meeting.

Read the letter here:

<https://www.vanalen.org/stories/public-space-for-free-expression/>

### ASLA Advocacy Day is April 27

Every year chapter presidents and trustees from across the nation meet in DC to advocate for important issues relating to our profession on Capitol Hill. Elizabeth Jordan, Adrian Smith and I will be attending and this year we will sponsor two CCNY students, Robynne Heymans and Jacqui Leboutillier to join us and experience this higher level of service. We are very excited to offer this opportunity to students as future leaders of our chapter!



Interested in learning more about ASLA's Advocacy news or following current bills? Go to <http://advocate.asla.org>. There you can also sign up to receive email alerts when there is an advocacy alert from ASLA.

### **NY State Lobby Day is May 17**

Representatives from the New York Council of Landscape Architects (NYSCLA), which includes members from our chapter and the Upstate New York chapter, travel to Albany to advocate for landscape architect's rights. Lobby Day provides an important opportunity for NYSCLA to focus on how proposed and existing state laws and regulations will impact our environment and the profession. Attending Lobby Day is a high priority for our chapter and we welcome your input this year.

If you are interested in learning more or being involved in Lobby Day this year, please contact our Executive Director, Kathy Shea at [director@aslany.org](mailto:director@aslany.org).

As always, if you have concerns, ideas or want to be more involved in the profession, please contact us. Our Executive Board represents YOU and we are happy to have your input.

Thank you kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer L. Nitzky'.

Jennifer L. Nitzky, RLA, ASLA, ISA  
ASLA-NY President  
[www.aslany.org](http://www.aslany.org)