



Alaska Professional Design Council PO Box 241851 Anchorage AK 99524
Legislative Liaison Committee Chair, Dale Nelson, PE (907) 947-1855

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE 2015 POSITION STATEMENT

MEMBER SOCIETIES

Alaska Society of Professional
Engineers

Alaska Society of Professional
Land Surveyors

American Institute of
Architects Alaska Chapter

American Society of Civil
Engineers Alaska Section

American Society of
Landscape Architects Alaska
Chapter

American Council of
Engineering Companies of
Alaska

American Society of Interior
Designers

Structural Engineers
Association of Alaska

The Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) is a consortium of professional societies representing design professionals including architects, engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects and interior designers. We have a combined membership of over 1,500 and represent approximately 5,000 licensed design professionals. APDC collaborates on issues of shared interest through educational offerings and governmental advocacy. We are deeply rooted in the business of architecture and engineering, and committed to the long term health and vitality of our state.

One component of APDC is the Legislative Liaison Committee (LLC), a standing committee that actively works with Alaska State Legislators concerning legislation affecting the design community and the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public. APDC and the member societies foster the support, growth and development of programs that include mentoring programs in our communities, schools, and colleges that supports individual and organizations to advance their missions and goals.

APDC LLC also works closely with the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS Board) to further the interests of the regulated design professions in keeping with the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public.

The primary issues of concern to APDC LLC this legislative session are:

Expand QBS to cover all recipients of state funds – The State of Alaska currently requires (AS 36.30.270) that design professionals for state-funded public works projects be selected using Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) criteria. This methodology has been used extensively by federal, state, and local governmental units for more than four decades. It results in the best qualified designer being selected for public projects. Alaska's QBS laws are ambiguous, and many of our political subdivisions utilize design fees, or cost, as a component of the selection process, which violates the fundamental premise of QBS.

Due to the complex nature of design projects, as well as fairness in public contracting, APDC strongly believes that it is in the public's interest to utilize QBS for all public projects. HB24 extends the existing state requirement to use QBS to political subdivisions receiving state funding for public works projects. Simultaneously, we are actively providing educational materials to municipal officials and agencies about QBS so as to educate public works staff on the details of competitive and robust QBS methods.



University of Alaska Engineering Programs and Funding – Let's Finish What We Started – APDC supports the state funding for education in the engineering and geomatics (surveying and mapping) programs at the University of Alaska. Funds have been provided for the Engineering Facilities at the University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks campuses. The UAA Engineering Facility has been fully funded to completion. The UAF Engineering Facility has not been fully funded and requires \$31.3 million to complete.

These new engineering facilities will provide the University of Alaska at both the Anchorage and Fairbanks campuses the opportunity to expand their programs to meet the needs for engineers in the Alaska workplace and to provide an environment to stay current with ever changing technology. "Let's Finish What We Started."

Support capital funding for deferred maintenance and repair of Alaska's public infrastructure – APDC LLC supports state funding for capital projects that decreases the level of deferred maintenance and contributes to the repair of public facilities. Further, we support the use of long-term sustainable building designs for both new and renovated public building projects that conserve energy resources and reduce operating costs.

Support capital funding for Educational Facilities and Educational Programs – APDC LLC supports state funding for school facility projects to address the needs of all students and educators. School facilities are a critical part of Alaska's educational system. Adequately funding the statewide needs as prioritized by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development ensures that teachers and students will have the facilities they need to educate Alaska's children.

APDC and the member societies supports the K-12 STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) activities in the class room and also the involvement of mentoring programs. APDC's member societies have various mentoring programs that being applied in Alaska. One such program is the involvement of engineering students from the University of Alaska, campuses of Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, to take part in the APDC LLC Legislative Fly-In.