

Personal Statement for Legislative Confirmation hearing
Catherine Fritz, AELS Board
March 2021

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today, and for your consideration of my reappointment to the AELS Board for a second term.

I have lived in Alaska since 1983 and have been a registered architect since 1990.

My first term on the AELS Board has been very educational and rewarding. I have learned a tremendous amount about the work of my colleagues in the related professions of engineering, land surveying, and landscape architecture. And I believe that I have effectively reciprocated by voicing issues relating to the practice of architecture. The interactions have deepened my respect for, and awareness of our similarities and differences, and given me a sound appreciation for the efficiencies of the multi-discipline board model. I understand why members of other jurisdictions envy this model.

My career in public service provided me a good understanding of statutory and regulatory processes, as well as the role of our board. This has allowed me to be very effective in responding to the business of the board, and to keep focused on the board's mission. I am able to objectively consider the regulatory needs of the profession – what the board should regulate, and what it should not regulate. Over the past two years, I have actively led the development of our Board's Strategic Plan so as to guide our work in a consistent and deliberate manner. Adjusting to Covid-19 has delayed the implementation of our Strategic Plan until recently, but we are now in a position to take specific actions to make the plan a living, working framework. This is one of several projects that I would like to see through if my reappointment is confirmed.

Serving on the AELS Board is both an honor and a privilege – people are trusting in me to uphold the health, safety, and welfare fundamentals of my profession. I appreciate the important role that volunteer boards play in Alaska's governmental structure. It has always been my nature to become actively involved in efforts I undertake. I feel that if I'm going to give my precious time to participate, then I'm going to really participate – not just watch from the sidelines! This means that I am prepared for meetings, engaged in committee work, and responsive to the Board's business.

Thank you, sincerely, for the opportunity to serve and I appreciate your consideration of my reappointment to a second term.

Catherine Fritz