Memorandum

Date: September 15, 2008

To: Component Leaders

From: Paul Mendelsohn
Vice President, Government and Community Relations

Subject: Review of AIA Position Statements

The AIA issues Public Policies and Position Statements as statements of belief to policy-makers, the public, and the construction industry on issues of public policy affecting the membership, the profession of architecture, or The American Institute of Architects.

Each Position Statement carries a three-year sunset date. The Board is now in the process of conducting a comprehensive sunset review of current Position Statements as mandated under section 9.336 of the rules of the Board:

Management will conduct an annual review of all Position Statements scheduled for sunset. Position Statements recommended for extension without substantive revision require a majority vote of the Board at one reading. Position Statements requiring substantive revision will be subject to review and adoption requirements as outlined above in sections 9.331 through 9.335. Position Statements recommended for sunset may be rescinded by majority vote of the Board.

As a first step in this process, at the Board meeting in May 2008, nine Position Statements were adopted (with a new three-year sunset date) without revision. Those are:

3. Mandatory Continuing Education (MCE)
21. Studio Culture in Practice and Education
24. Copyright Protection
25. Legal Form of Practice
27. Qualifications Based Selection
30. Tort Reform
31. Civil Rights
34. Accessible Environment
41. Government Procurement: Stock Plans

Two Position Statements (26, Project Delivery, and 46, Eminent Domain) were adopted by the Board in December 2007, and so do not require review in 2008.

The remaining 35 Position Statements are being submitted to you and other stakeholders for a public comment period as outlined in section 9.334 of the AIA Rules of the Board, which states:

Management will prepare a discussion draft of all new Public Policies or Position Statements or revisions to existing Public Policies or Position Statements based on input from all appropriate sources both within and outside the Institute. Not less than 60 days before first reading by the Board, management will circulate the discussion draft proposed Public Policy or Position Statement to all Directors, components, and relevant committees for comment. If necessary, based on the comments received, management will prepare a revised draft for consideration by the Board at first reading. Components will be promptly notified of the Board’s action on first reading. Public Policies will be distributed for a second 60 day comment period and components will be promptly notified of the opportunity to submit additional comments prior to second reading.

Upon conclusion of the public comment period, staff will develop a discussion draft of all submitted comments. The Advocacy Committee will review the comments prior to submission to the Board for consideration and final passage during the December 2008 Board meeting.

Attached are the proposed Position Statement revisions and a generic comment report form that can be used for any of the Position Statements.

If you would like to offer comment on any of the draft Position Statement revisions, please complete all of the requested information on the comment form, including which statement you are commenting on, and return the completed form(s) no later than **Wednesday, November 14, 2008**.
Please use a separate comment form for each Position Statement on which you are offering comment.

The completed comment forms may be submitted to the AIA through any of the following means:

- Fax number: (202) 879-3072
- Email: rstevenson@aia.org
- AIA Web portal: http://www.aia.org (please note, the online comment option will not be available until later this month. An article will appear in the AIA Angle once the online comment function is completed and available).

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter. If you have any questions please contact Paul Mendelsohn, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, at 202.626-7388 or pmendelsohn@aia.org.
Name & Position: __________________________________________________________

Component _____________________________________________________________

Position Statement Name _________________________________________________

I am  o in agreement
     o in disagreement

     with the proposed Position Statement.

Additional Comments:

Please return this form by November 14, 2008 to: (202) 879-3072 fax or rstevenson@aia.org.