

November 4, 2025



The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Thune, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the more than 16,000 members of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), we are writing to express deep concern about the ongoing federal government shutdown and its profound impact on the nation's public servants, including landscape architects serving across federal agencies. As we reach the 35th day of the shutdown—the longest in U.S. history—the consequences for these professionals and the public assets they manage are becoming increasingly severe. ASLA urges you to work on a bipartisan solution that will end this federal shutdown.

Federal landscape architects play a vital role in the design, stewardship, and management of America's most iconic and essential public spaces. Whether restoring national parks and monuments, enhancing stormwater resilience at federal facilities, or improving accessibility at courthouses and memorials, federal landscape architects shape and steward public spaces that serve people, protect natural systems, and strengthen communities. These professionals serve in agencies such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the General Services Administration, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, among others.

When federal operations shut down, essential landscape architecture projects that sustain our public lands, preserve cultural treasures, and strengthen community resilience are abruptly paused. The interruption of this work not only delays essential public projects but can also increase costs, degrade natural systems, and create long-term backlogs in maintenance and environmental management.

Beyond the direct effects on federal operations, the shutdown has deeply personal consequences for those who dedicate their careers to public service. Many federal landscape architects have been furloughed, facing financial uncertainty and professional



disruption. Their collaborations with state and local governments, private firms, universities, and nonprofit organizations are delaying critical community planning and conservation efforts nationwide.

Beyond federal workers, the shutdown also severely impacts small businesses, including small landscape architecture firms. These firms rely on a fully functioning federal government for their success—from securing federal loans and permits, to working with contracting officers, to navigating the Federal Acquisition Regulation. A recent U.S. Chamber of Commerce analysis shows that the 65,500 small business contractors across the United States have nearly \$3 billion a week at risk, with \$12 billion just in the month of October alone.¹

Once again, ASLA respectfully urges Congress to work together toward a bipartisan agreement to reopen the government and restore stability to the federal workforce and the businesses and communities they serve. Each day the shutdown continues weakens the ability of federal agencies to fulfill their missions and undermines our nation’s commitment to caring for the public lands and places that belong to all Americans. If you have any questions or need additional information about how this federal shutdown is impacting the landscape architecture community, please feel free to contact us or Roxanne Blackwell, Managing Director of Government Affairs at rblackwell@asla.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Torey Carter-Conneen".

Torey Carter-Conneen, Hon.ASLA
Chief Executive Officer
American Society of Landscape Architects

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley McCauley".

Bradley McCauley, FASLA
President
American Society of Landscape Architects

¹ U.S. Chamber of Commerce (2025, October 30). *Federal Contracts: Reliable Revenue for Small Businesses. Until a Shutdown*. <https://www.uschamber.com/small-business/federal-contracts-reliable-revenue-for-small-businesses-until-a-shutdown>