



## AIA Kansas Government Affairs Update

The Kansas Legislative Session is fast becoming one for the record books. However, as happens every year, the biggest decisions, the State budget, is left to the last. Where is where we stand today.

See copies of the bill at <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-bills/index.do> - fill in the bill number - no HB or SB

**SB 327 – Coal Fired Electric Generation Plants** – As you know that Governor vetoed this bill. The Senate can easily override the veto; however, it will be much more difficult in the House. The deadline to override the veto is this week.

**SB 452 – Energy/water standards for state buildings and K-12 schools** - Position: Support. This bill requires new state buildings and USD schools reduce energy and water consumption. AIA Kansas supports the legislation but wants definition for "new construction," removal of word "certify" in the responsibilities of the a/e; and removal of the review process at the end of first year. AIA Kansas testified in support of the bill with amendments. It remains in committee. The bill is DEAD for this year.

**SB 485 – Alternative Delivery for Counties.** This bill, for counties, is similar to the Alternative Delivery statutes for state projects. It establishes consistent procedures for allowing design/build and CM at Risk. AIA Kansas testified in support of the bill in the Senate. **The bill was amended in the House to include CM @Risk for School Districts (not Design/Build.) The bill is in a conference committee where the House/Senate differences must be reconciled.**

**SB 642 - Unified school districts; alternative building construction** - This bill, for counties, is similar to the Alternative Delivery statutes for state projects. It establishes consistent procedures for allowing design/build and CM at Risk. AIA Kansas supports the bill. It remains in committee. Position: Support. See SB 485 above for action.

**HB 2315 – Establishes a Board to register Home Inspectors.** Originally, this would be a new regulatory board. However, an amendment was added to place this registry under the State Board of Technical Professions. AIA Kansas strongly opposed this and we, twice in the same week, alerted our members who live in the districts of the Senate Commerce Committee to contact their Senators to oppose the bill. **The bill passed out of the committee with the registry in the Secretary of State's Office, not the Tech Board.** Thanks to all who contacted their senators to keep this from become part of the Tech Board.

**HB 2618 - Administrative procedure amendments** – this bill removes the authority of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions to hold their own hearings on matters before it. They will have to use an administrative officer to conduct the hearings. This will require the Tech Board to hire experts on matters before the hearing officer. AIA Kansas provided testimony opposing this change. As some of you know, the House passed an amendment that said "In the event a Kansas state agency is interpreting or enforcing a federal regulation, a federal statute or a national building or fire code and such regulation, statute or code is interpreted less restrictively by state officials in other states, such less restrictive interpretation shall be applicable in Kansas unless such less restrictive interpretation conflicts with a Kansas statute, regulation or local ordinance or resolution." AIA Kansas sent an alert to those AIA members who were in the districts of the Senators on the Judiciary Committee. We are happy to report that the Senate removed this language from the bill. **Upon action on the floor of the Senate, the body voted to send the entire bill back to committee, in effect killing it. But it ain't over 'til is over.**" The rumor is that the will will come back to the Senate for an up or down vote. If this happens, the bill will go to a conference committee between the House/Senate to work out the differences. AIA Kansas thanks those members who contacted their Senators to remove the nightmare language on codes and standards.

**H 2744 - Procedures for state agencies to acquire architectural, engineering and land surveying services for certain projects for state agencies and setting fees for such services.** AIA Kansas supports this will that will eliminate the fee cap that is currently in statute and bring architects and engineers requirements into sink. The bill has yet to have a hearing. **The House passed this bill and the Senate Committee had a hearing yesterday.** AIA Kansas is hopeful that the bill will see action in the Senate and become law in July.



## **Wear BLUE for Earth Day 2008 to Vote for NO COAL**

Want to stop global warming? Wear **BLUE** for Earth Day 2008! Join millions of people around the world who will be wearing **BLUE** to signify their vote for **NO COAL**. Events will be happening April 19th through April 22nd, so...

If you're attending the Earth Day event on the National Mall in Washington, DC on April 20th, wear **BLUE**.

If you're attending another major Earth Day event, wear **BLUE**.

When you dress in the morning on Earth Day, wear **BLUE**.

No matter what you're doing for Earth Day 2008, wear **BLUE**.

A **BLUE** shirt, top, sweater or jacket... whatever. Just wear **BLUE**.

Then, on April 22, make your voice heard. Pick up the phone: Call Congress at 202.224.3121 and ask for an immediate 'Moratorium on Coal' - a halt to the construction of any new conventional coal-fired power plants. Through this [Call for Climate](#) event, Earth Day hopes to generate over a million phone calls to Congress!

Your **BLUE** vote will count. Fifty-nine conventional coal plants were canceled in 2007. That's over a third of the 151 planned. That happened before millions of people joined together to say No Coal.

BYO**Blue** for Earth Day 2008. Be the vote that tips the balance.



**AIA National Convention**

**May 15-17, 2008**

The AIA 2008 National Convention and Design Exposition will take place in Boston, May 15–17, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. This year's theme, We the People, will explore how architecture works on behalf of all people and society. A closer look will be taken on the essential role of the architect in society by parsing the architect's contribution according to five broad tracks: where we live, where we work, our place in the world, how we come together, and our place on the land. Registration is now open online. Go to [aiaconvention.com](http://aiaconvention.com) for more details and to register today. Hotel and travel arrangements can also be made on this site. All first time architects and associates who joined within the last year are free to attend!

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## **Want to be a delegate to the AIA Convention in Boston?**

Contact AIA Kansas by **May 1st** to receive your delegate card in the mail. **Cards will not be distributed to the convention.**

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## Continuing Education

AIA Wichita presents **LEED for New Construction Exam Workshop Preparation Class**. Seven hours over two 1/2 days - **April 23 from 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm and April 24th from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm**. Register online at [www.aiaks.org/leed](http://www.aiaks.org/leed). Seating is limited. Questions, call Mike Seiwert at WDM - 2316-262-4700. Purchase materials, LEED NC Reference Guide, Third Edition from USGBC, [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) (allow 2 weeks for delivery)

AIA Kansas will present the same **LEED for New Construction Exam Workshop Preparation Class** as above in a one-day format on **Friday, June 13 from 9:30 am - 5:30 pm**. Tentatively held in Topeka. More information will be sent as soon as available.

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**Job Board** Please visit the AIA Kansas website for up to the minute job listings [aiaks.org](http://aiaks.org)