

## **Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative**

Nominee: Representative Donna Edwards (MD)

Nominee's Address: 318 Cannon House Office Building

City/State/Zip: Washington, DC 20515

Phone: 202-225-8699

Nominator: Robert J. Alter, ASLA, Trustee, Maryland Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

Representative Donna Edwards was elected to serve Maryland's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in 2008. Since her election, Congresswoman Edwards has established herself as a national leader in active transportation and stormwater management issues. Rep. Edwards has worked tirelessly to promote green infrastructure projects in her own district, most notably an innovative nationally-recognized green streets project in Edmonston, Maryland, and across the country.

Because of her interest in clean water issues, Representative Edwards introduced *H.R. 2030, the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act*, a bill which encourages the use of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques to help manage our nation's stormwater runoff, and prevent combined sewer overflows. This landmark piece of clean water legislation would allow states, localities, and other qualified entities to receive grants to plan, design, and implement green infrastructure projects that will address stormwater management and other water quality and quantity issues. The legislation would also establish at least 3 Centers of Excellence for Green Infrastructure across the country, which would, among other things, provide technical assistance to state and local governments and conduct research on stormwater, sewer overflow reduction, and other approaches to water resource enhancement. Finally, the legislation would promote the use of green infrastructure by encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to integrate green infrastructure in permitting and other regulatory programs, codes, and ordinance development. ASLA has joined with American Rivers, the Natural Resource Defense Council, and other allied organizations to work to support and promote the passage of *the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act*.

Congresswoman Edwards is also a co-sponsor of Congresswoman Lois Capp's *H.R. 2738, the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2011*, which would provide grants to fund innovative water projects that increase the resiliency or adaptability of the systems to any ongoing or forecasted changes to the hydrologic conditions of a U.S. region. Under the bill, priority would be given to owners or operators of water systems that are at the greatest and most immediate risk of facing significant negative impacts due to changing hydrologic conditions. The bill further requires that grantees use decentralized, low-impact development technologies and nonstructural approaches, including practices that use, enhance, or mimic the natural hydrological cycle or protect natural flows and reduce stormwater runoff or flooding by protecting or enhancing natural ecosystem functions - all techniques that landscape architects employ in projects in Maryland, and across the country.

Rep. Edwards serves with distinction on the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee and serves as a leading voice for water issues on the Committee's Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Congresswoman Edwards chaired an important Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing entitled *The Impact of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development on the Nation's Water Quality, Economy and Communities* that featured testimony by ASLA.

She recently demonstrated her leadership on transportation and livable communities' policy by offering an amendment that would restore Transportation Enhancements funds to small communities during T&I Committee consideration of H.R. 7, the House surface transportation reauthorization proposal. Unfortunately, the amendment did not pass out of Committee, but, Rep. Edwards' commitment to active transportation endures.

Rep. Edwards is a co-sponsor of *H.R. 2547, The No Child Left Inside Act*, a bill introduced to provide incentives for states to develop state Environmental Literacy Plans, thus ensuring that every student is prepared to understand the environmental challenges of the future.

In addition to her role on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative Edwards serves on the House Committee on Ethics and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Representative Edwards is a strong advocate for strengthening clean water protections, supporting increased funding for both traditional and innovative water infrastructure that can protect water quality. Because of her diligent efforts in working to protect and preserve our nation's natural resources and for championing innovative approaches to water management, smart growth, and transportation policies for all users, Congresswoman Donna Edwards is an excellent candidate for honorary membership to the American Society of Landscape Architects.

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Dear Trustees:

We are writing to offer our support for Representative Donna Edwards' nomination to become an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Congresswoman Edwards has established herself as a national leader in active transportation and stormwater management issues. Rep. Edwards has worked tirelessly to promote green infrastructure projects in her own district, most notably an innovative nationally-recognized green streets project in Edmonston, Maryland, and across the country.

Because of her interest in clean water issues, Representative Edwards introduced *H.R. 2030, the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act*, a bill which encourages the use of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques to help manage our nation's stormwater runoff, and prevent combined sewer overflows. This landmark piece of clean water legislation would allow states, localities, and other qualified entities to receive grants to plan, design, and implement green infrastructure projects that will address stormwater management and other water quality and quantity issues. The legislation would also establish at least 3 Centers of Excellence for Green Infrastructure across the country, which would, among other things, provide technical assistance to state and local governments and conduct research on stormwater, sewer overflow reduction, and other approaches to water resource enhancement. Finally, the legislation would promote the use of green infrastructure by encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to integrate green infrastructure in permitting and other regulatory programs, codes, and ordinance development. ASLA has joined with American Rivers, the Natural Resource Defense Council, and other allied organizations to work to support and promote the passage of *the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act*.

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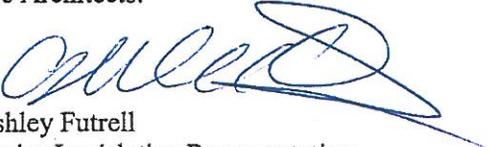
Rep. Edwards serves with distinction on the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee and serves as a leading voice for water issues on the Committee's Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Congresswoman Edwards chaired an important Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing entitled *The Impact of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development on the Nation's Water Quality, Economy and Communities* that featured testimony by ASLA.

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In addition to her role on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative Edwards serves on the House Committee on Ethics and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Representative Edwards is a strong advocate for strengthening clean water protections, supporting increased funding for both traditional and innovative water infrastructure that can protect water quality. Because of her diligent efforts in working to protect and preserve our nation's natural resources and for championing innovative approaches to water management, smart growth, and transportation policies for all users, Congresswoman Donna Edwards is an excellent candidate for honorary membership to the American Society of Landscape Architects.



Ashley Futrell  
Senior Legislative Representative



March 22, 2012

Dear Trustees:

I am writing on behalf of American Rivers to offer my support for Representative Donna Edwards' nomination to become an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Representative Edwards is a consistent champion of innovative water management and a leader in green infrastructure solutions to manage polluted runoff in her district and across the country. From green roofs to rain gardens, green infrastructure practices work by capturing and infiltrating rainwater where it falls. The use of these practices expands opportunities for landscape architects and protects clean water for communities.

Representative Edwards serves with distinction on the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee and is a leading voice for water issues on the Committee's Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Through her work with the Subcommittee, Representative Edwards chaired a hearing entitled *The Impact of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development on the Nation's Water Quality, Economy and Communities*. This hearing demonstrated her commitment to cost-effective green infrastructure practices and helped to raise the profile of green infrastructure on the Hill and in discussions of water management.

This Congress, Representative Edwards introduced the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act of 2011 (H.R. 2030). This bill represents a critical step forward in transforming green infrastructure from a best practice to a cost-effective tool in the toolbox for stormwater management in communities. Her bill would provide implementation and development grants for communities, giving priority to low-income and combined sewer overflow communities. The bill would also ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency integrates green infrastructure practices into its programs. H.R. 2030 would also establish up to 5 Centers of Excellence to serve as clearinghouses of information for communities about green infrastructure.

Representative Edwards further demonstrated her commitment to clean water by co-sponsoring Representative Lois Capps' *H.R. 2738, the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2011*, which would provide grants to fund innovative water projects that increase the resiliency or adaptability of communities to the impacts of droughts and floods. The bill further requires that grantees use decentralized, low-impact development technologies and nonstructural approaches, including practices that mimic the natural water cycle, protect natural flows, and reduce polluted runoff and flooding. In the face of a changing climate, providing tools for communities to prepare and adapt will be critical.

Representative Edwards has worked tirelessly to highlight the success of the Edmonston Green Street project in her district and to promote the lessons learned so that other communities can implement these cost-effective green infrastructure practices. She is a strong advocate for strengthening clean water protections, supporting increased funding for both traditional and innovative water infrastructure that can protect water quality. Because of her diligent efforts in working to protect and preserve our nation's natural resources and for championing innovative approaches to water management, smart growth, and transportation policies for all users, Congresswoman Donna Edwards is an excellent candidate for honorary membership to the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Baer".

Katherine Baer  
Senior Director, Clean Water Program  
American Rivers