

Dear [insert first name of staff member],

It was a pleasure meeting with you on July 22 as part of the Virtual Advocacy Day for the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Thank you for taking the time to talk with me about issues important to landscape architects as well as local projects in our state.

During our meeting, we discussed two important federal priorities that affect landscape architects and your communities. I would appreciate [insert your Senator's name] supporting **S. 4258, the Revitalizing America's Schoolyards Act**, introduced by Senator Martin Heinrich (NM). This legislation would establish a competitive grant program within the U.S. Department of Education to help public schools transform aging schoolyards into healthier, safer, and more resilient outdoor learning environments. The bill supports the planning, design, and construction of green schoolyards that incorporate nature-based infrastructure such as trees, outdoor classrooms, school gardens, rain gardens, and natural play spaces, while prioritizing schools serving underserved communities.

We also discussed the importance of the **Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program**, the nation's largest dedicated source of federal funding for bicycling, walking, and trail projects. As Congress develops the next surface transportation reauthorization, I encourage the Senator to support a strong Transportation Alternatives Program that continues robust federal investment in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, Safe Routes to School, recreational trails, and other community transportation projects. Landscape architects utilize this program to help plan and design safe, accessible, and resilient transportation networks that benefit communities across our state.

Lastly, I would like to re-extend an offer to have the Senator tour a local landscape architecture project in our state. I would be happy to demonstrate how our profession is making an impact in our community. Please feel free to contact me about coordinating a site visit during an upcoming district work period.

If you have any questions about the legislative issues we discussed, please feel free to contact ASLA's Managing Director of Government Affairs Roxanne Blackwell at rblackwell@asla.org.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

[insert full name and contact information including email, phone number, and office address]