



NOMINATION FOR ASLA OLMSTED AWARD

HONORABLE SHELDON WHITEHOUSE UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND

Dear colleagues,

I urge the American Society of Landscape Architects to bestow the Olmsted Medal, which recognizes "individuals, organizations, agencies, or programs outside the profession of landscape architecture for environmental leadership, vision, and stewardship" to the United States Senate's strongest advocate for climate change action and ocean conservation, The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, United States Senator from Rhode Island.

Since April 2012, Senator Whitehouse, has risen to the floor of the Senate each week to speak about climate change. In his 200th Senate address on climate change, in March 2018, Senator Whitehouse had this to say:

As I give my 200th "Time To Wake Up" speech, the most obvious fact standing plainly before me is not the measured sea level rise at Naval Station Newport, is not the 400 ppm carbon dioxide barrier we have broken through in the atmosphere, is not the new flooding maps coastal communities like Rhode Island must face, nor is it the West aflame. It is not even the uniform consensus about climate change across universities, national laboratories, scientific societies, and even across our military and intelligence services, who warn us that climate change is fueling economic and social disruption around the world. The fact that stands out for me, here at number 200, is the persistent failure of Congress to even take up the issue of climate change.

At that time, Senator Tom Carper of Delaware, Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works Committee noted, "For nearly six years, my friend and colleague, Senator Whitehouse, has been coming to the Senate floor reminding us all that it's long past time to wake up and start seriously addressing the greatest environmental challenge of our time – climate change. His passion and his unwavering commitment to finding real solutions have been critical to our efforts to protect our oceans and our unique coastal communities – like those across Rhode Island and Delaware – already reeling from the impacts of climate change."

In addition to climate change, Senator Whitehouse is a senate leader in advocating and legislating for the health of oceans and coastal ecosystems. He serves on the **Environment and Public Works Committee** (EPW) which is responsible for matters related to the environment and infrastructure. Within the EPW, he serves on the **Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife** whose jurisdiction includes: Clean Water Act (including

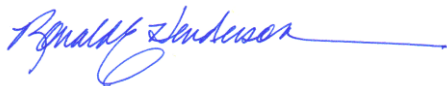
wetlands); Safe Drinking Water Act; Coastal Zone Management Act; invasive species; Fisheries and Wildlife, Endangered Species Act, National Wildlife Refuges; and Outer Continental Shelf Lands. In this capacity, he helped to oversee the implementation of laws governing clean water, investments in drinking water infrastructure, legislation to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and raise awareness of the harms of plastics and other debris in oceans.

He is founding co-Chair, with Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, of the **Senate Oceans Caucus**, a bipartisan caucus working to "increase awareness and find common ground in responding to issues facing the oceans and coastal ecosystems." His environmental leadership continues with his service on the **U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus (ICC)**, a bipartisan congressional organization with the conviction that "the United States of America has the opportunity, the obligation, and the interests to advance the conservation of natural resources for this and future generations." The ICC works to ensure stewardship for natural resources that can lead to habitat and biodiversity protection, among other issues.

In May 2011, Senator Whitehouse introduced legislation, **The National Endowment for the Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes Act (S.973)** to support coastal jobs and protect oceans. After several years of advocacy, a re-authorization of the **Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA)** in May 2014 included a provision crafted by Senator Whitehouse that authorized a new program within the Army Corps of Engineers to determine projects in coastal zones to enhance ocean and coastal ecosystem resiliency.

As an educator in Chicago - alongshore the Great Lakes - and with my professional office in Newport - on Narragansett Bay - the leadership that Senator Whitehouse provides for coastal issues influences my work as both an educator and a practitioner. As a Newporter, it is fitting that Senator Whitehouse would receive this recognition while representing a Rhode Island constituency so steeped in rich Olmsted legacies. It is my honor to nominate The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Senator of Rhode Island, for the American Society of Landscape Architects Olmsted Medal for his advocacy for climate change action and for his oceanic and coastal resource management leadership.

Respectfully,



Ron Henderson FASLA

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February 8, 2019

Olmsted Medal Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
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Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

It is with great pleasure and pride that the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects enthusiastically endorses Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for the Olmsted Medal. At our local level, he has been an advocate for a multitude of statewide efforts such as being a strong voice for American's first offshore wind farm off the shores of Block Island.

In addition to being supportive of our sustainable energy efforts, Sheldon has worked with our aquaculture industry to address sea-level rise as they establish and grow their businesses. He included a provision in the 2018 Farm Bill to increase the availability of new, workable insurance options for shellfish farmers in collaboration with the Rhode Island Sea Grant which supports Rhode Island's commercial fishing and aquaculture communities by providing scientific and research-based expertise to public and private sector entities which have grown dramatically over the last ten years.

Recently, the Senate passed the America's Water Infrastructure Act, to improve waterways, harbors, and drinking water infrastructure and support U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in Rhode Island. This effort was championed by Sheldon Whitehouse. As a result of these efforts, Rhode Island will not have safer, more resilient water and coastal infrastructure put in place, which will provide protection for sea-level rise and hurricanes.

Sheldon truly is passionate about the environment and as a Past-President and current Trustee, I personally feel that we, as a Chapter, are honored to meet with him every Advocacy Day not to ask for his support with landscape architecture efforts we are advocating for but to thank him for all of his work. By honoring Sheldon Whitehouse with this Medal, I think it would be a great reflection of his environmental leadership for the profession of landscape architecture.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jenn Judge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenn Judge, PLA, ASLA
RIASLA Trustee

February 5, 2019

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects

RE: Nomination of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for the Olmsted Medal

I am writing in support of the nomination of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island for the Olmsted Medal.

At a time when climate change is one of the most important initiatives of the ASLA, it is particularly appropriate that the Olmsted Medal be awarded to Senator Whitehouse. Since 2012, he has delivered a weekly "Time to Wake Up" speech on the Senate floor about the need for political action to address the issue of man-made climate change. In the process he has brought other politicians into the fold to urge for climate change action.

This is not the only action Senator Whitehouse has taken that supports the mission of the ASLA. He has initiated and supported legislation to address a wide range of air and water quality pollution issues and to protect wilderness areas and ecosystems. He has particularly focused on ocean issues, including the impacts of climate change on warming oceans resulting in sea level rise, changes to fisheries, and increased acidity; in 2018 he was a co-sponsor of the Save Our Seas Act.

Senator Whitehouse's priorities and issues also support the ASLA's focus on developing policies that encourage better land use decisions and encouraging innovation and research in infrastructure to create more resilient communities.

I highly recommend that the Olmsted Medal be awarded to this courageous and persistent advocate for the environment.

Sincerely,



Vaughn B. Rinner, PLA, FASLA, SITES AP
Landscape Architect
Past President, ASLA (2017)

6586 High Point Drive SW
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February 7, 2019

MITHUN

ASLA Board of Trustees

Re: Nomination of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for the Olmsted Medal

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse from Rhode Island is a steadfast example of one voice that we need to hear in unison from our elected leadership. His commitment to sharing climate change information in a weekly speech from the Senate floor for over 200 consecutive weeks is notable for its resolve. This example of deep resolve is important to the on-going work around climate change.

ASLA's commitment to climate change makes Mr. Whitehouse an excellent candidate for the Medal this year. Mithun is recommending Mr. Whitehouse because we are acutely aware that climate change will impact underserved communities first. This is why we appreciate the urgency and consistency of the Senator's speeches – people are in the balance.

Creating a sense of inevitability about structural change is critical. With urgency we encourage you to consider Senator Whitehouse as the 2019 Olmsted Medal – he is setting the stage and creating that inevitability.

Sincerely,



Debra Guenther, FASLA
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ASLA Design Medal Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
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Dear ASLA Board of Trustees

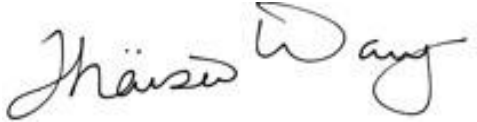
I am writing in strong support of the nomination of the Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Senator from Rhode Island, for the Olmsted Medal. As noted in the news in March, 2018 “Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) delivered his 200th weekly speech imploring the Senate to wake up to the threat of climate change. Since April 2012, Whitehouse has taken to the Senate floor week after week to deliver in-depth remarks on the science of manmade climate change, its effects felt throughout the country and around the globe, and the political forces that impede climate action in Congress. Whitehouse was joined Tuesday by 16 Senators, who also discussed the threat climate change poses and the urgent need for a solution.” Whitehouse began his weekly speeches in response to the Obama White House deciding to stop trying to advance a climate bill through Congress.

As the ASLA takes a leadership role in addressing climate change and all of the related challenges of this significant environmental reality, it is critical that we recognize our leaders who are standing up. Senator Whitehouse has not only stood up 200 times in the past six years in Congress, but he fights for leadership across sectors and communities. He understands the changes that are occurring on land and in our oceans. He understands the role of carbon pollution. He understands the science and the legal language and framework. But even more importantly, he understands the impacts on our communities across the nation and the globe. In 2014, he led 30 colleagues in holding the Senate floor overnight to emphasize the threat of climate change, and in 2016 he organized speeches by 19 Senators to call out how climate change discussion has been blocked. Some have claimed he is obsessed with climate change- I think that is a good thing in our leaders.

While there are a hundred quotes I might include- let me end with this one as it is evidence of Senator Whitehouse’s deep commitment and his broad understanding of the challenges we face: “There’s a story that needs to be told, because when some coastal farmer in Malaysia or Madagascar or Sri Lanka has lost their farm and their village has had to go and there’s fighting for resources, all the things the Defense Department talks about at the policy level, all that stuff happens to somebody, to some kid, to some tribe, to some village, that stuff happens, and they’re mad and they want answers,” Whitehouse said. (Mashable, <https://mashable.com/2018/03/17/sheldon-whitehouse-200-climate-change-speeches/#sp3wt27rPsqi>)

Senator Whitehouse has shown the leadership that Frederick Law Olmsted showed and thus I believe the Olmsted Medal is the most appropriate recognition for this remarkable leader. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thaisa Way". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thaisa" and the last name "Way" clearly distinguishable.

Thaisa Way PhD, FASLA, FAAR
Professor, Landscape Architecture, Executive Director, Urban@UW
University of Washington

COLLEGE OF

BUILT

ENVIRONMENTAL

Nomination of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for the Olmsted Medal

It is an honor to nominate Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for the Olmsted Medal. Throughout my career as a scientist and administrator at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership and the Desert Research Institute, I have not met anyone whose career and impact exemplifies the commitment to stewardship of this planet and the concern for quality of life than Sheldon Whitehouse.

More than any other member of the US Senate, Senator Whitehouse was a champion of raising the visibility of climate change, both the science and its impacts. He introduced many bills that would require federal natural resource agencies to be concerned with the long-term effects of climate change. He also championed encouraging states to prepare natural resource adaptation plans. His support for providing the best available science for national environmental policy was relentless, always encouraging federal agencies responsible for environmental policy and laws to establish science advisory boards to assist in the formation of their policies.

He was and continues to be very concerned with the potential impacts of climate change on our ecosystem, population and overall planet as exemplified by his speaking weekly for many years on the Senate floor. These speeches highlighted the science of climate change and offered paths for the United States to take strong action. He is also a strong supporter of mandatory carbon emissions curbs, supporting and sponsoring many bills in the Senate. He strongly favored legislation that supported solar and wind power alternatives to oil and coal.

The Senator is equally concerned with the protections of our oceans. This dedication is clearly seen by his sponsoring a major and most significant piece of legislation to create the National Endowment for the Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes. Another milestone in his career of protecting the wisely using the oceans natural resources was his leadership in the formation of the Senate Ocean Caucus. For this achievement, he received the highest award from the Consortium for Ocean Leadership which represents over 100 universities and ocean research institutions in this country.

In summary, I can think of no more dedicated and accomplished candidate for the Olmsted Award. Senator Whitehouse richly deserves such honorable recognition.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Gagosian

President Emeritus, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

President Emeritus, Consortium for Ocean Leadership