



ASLA Vermont
c/o Jim Donovan, FASLA
Past President
PO Box 321
Charlotte, Vermont 05445

Honorary Membership Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Senator Patrick Leahy Honorary Membership Nomination

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

On behalf of the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA Vermont), it is my distinct honor to nominate former Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). During his more than 40 years in Congress, Senator Leahy continually championed good stewardship of our environment, one of the basic tenets of landscape architecture, through his sponsored legislation and voting record.

ASLA Legislative Agenda Support

During the past 20 years of involvement in ASLA Advocacy Day, participants from Vermont found that Senator Leahy had a 100 percent record in supporting our society's legislative agendas. Our visits with him and his staff were always easy; we provided our agenda and talking points quickly and the Senator and/or staff readily expressed their agreement with our views. It turned out numerous times that several bills ASLA supported Senator Leahy had co-sponsored. We were able to discuss other important topics to ASLA beyond those specific to the legislative agenda for that year, which the Senator often helped support.

Local Agricultural and Farm to Table

Coming from a state that has a strong agricultural heritage, Senator Leahy always supported legislation that promoted good practices in agriculture. He was also an early ally of the farm to table movement, which supports both local agriculture and the availability of good food for local populations. His efforts helped Vermont establish one of the best farm to table/restaurant/school programs in the country.

Historic and Cultural Landscape Preservation

Senator Leahy supported efforts to create the Historic American Landscape Survey and has continually supported legislation that provides protection and support for historic and cultural landscapes throughout the United States. Within Vermont, he continually worked to bring grants and other funding for preservation efforts to Shelburne Farms, an Olmsted-designed National Historic Landmark, as well as other historic landscapes within the state, including town greens and city parks.

Multi-modal Transportation, Streetscapes, and Complete Streets

Even before Senator Leahy became chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he was an effective champion of multi-modal transportation. He worked to add, keep, or expand funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects in each of the transportation bills passed in the last 20 years. As the complete streets movement gained momentum, Senator Leahy agreed with the concept and helped direct funding in the transportation bills toward making our streets more equitable for all. He also saw the benefits of better streetscapes to encourage more walking in our city and village centers and worked to keep funding for these programs in transportation and other funding bills passed by Congress. Each of these programs has been part of ASLA's long standing legislative agenda of support for non-motorized transportation initiatives.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

While the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has been in existence for a long time, its funding was historically subject to the whims of each congress. Senator Leahy was an advocate and supporter of providing permanent funding for the LWCF, a recent ASLA legislative initiative with our partners. His voice and actions helped to make permanent funding for the LWCF a reality before his retirement from the Senate.

Ecology and Climate Change Solutions

Vermont is home to the Marsh-Billings Rockefeller National Historic Park, which in part presents the early history of the ecological and conservation movement in the United States. Senator Leahy carried on the strong tradition of focusing on good ecological practices throughout his 40 years in the United States Senate. He strongly supported efforts to improve water quality in the United States through various legislative actions, especially if they had any relationship to Lake Champlain – a jewel on Vermont's western border. Senator Leahy even worked to get Lake Champlain declared the sixth Great Lake so that it would qualify for research and clean-up funds directed exclusively at the Great Lakes. Senator Leahy subsequently agreed to the removal of the title, but only after the eligibility criteria for this special funding allowed Lake Champlain to qualify equally with the other five Great Lakes in the St. Lawrence River drainage basin.

Closing

We have provided only a portion of the work of Senator Leahy over the past 40 plus years that have championed some of the basic elements of our profession – planning, design, management, and enlightened stewardship of the lands and waters of the United States. He has worked to improve human and environmental health in our communities, just as landscape architects do every day. The ASLA Vermont Executive Board believes his nomination for Honorary Membership is long overdue and that he is most deserving of being designated an Honorary Member of ASLA.

Cordially,



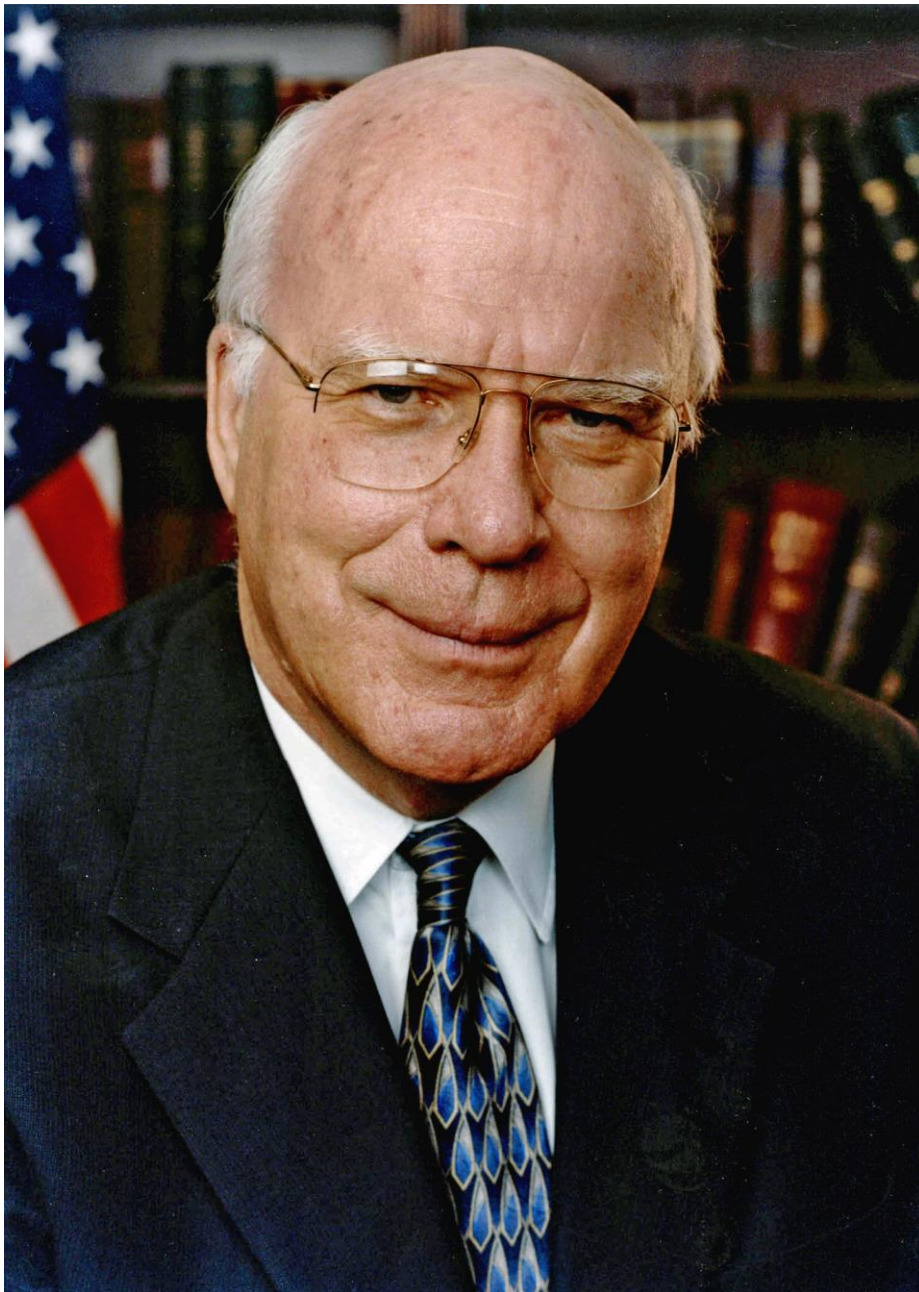
Jim Donovan, FASLA
For the Vermont Chapter Executive Board

Contact information:

Honorable Patrick Leahy
87 State Street, Suite 338
Montpelier, VT 05602

(802) 229-0569

Note: Senator Leahy's office will be closing soon. We will provide an updated address and phone number when we can get it. It has been difficult to get updated contact information without contacting the Senator directly.





SHELBURNE FARMS

February 28, 2023

Re: Recommendation for Senator Leahy Honorary Membership in ASLA

Dear ASLA Jury on awards for 2023,

I am very pleased to recommend Senator Patrick Leahy for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Senator Leahy's dedication to land and people, ecology and community, and the protection of this country's cultural resources reflects his deep care for our planet's living environment. He is an inspiration to us all in addressing important and influential topics that are very relevant to the values and the work of Landscape Architects.

Over the course of his long and notable career in the United States Senate, Senator Leahy has been a champion for conserving important landscapes and supporting the stewardship of parks, farmland, open spaces and historic resources here in Vermont and across the country. Here at Shelburne Farms, he has played a pivotal role in helping us conserve, improve, and share with the public the landscape that is a significant contributing element to our designation as a National Historic Landmark.

There is no one I can recommend more highly for honorary membership in ASLA. I am happy to be contacted directly anytime at 802 734 4108 to speak in person if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alec'.

Alec Webb President



28 February 2023

Dear Members of the ASLA Honorary Members Jury,

As a Vermonter and a Landscape Architect, over the years I had the opportunity to speak with former Senator Patrick Leahy several times. He always expressed an abiding interest in the betterment of the peoples and places of our country and typically noted a current topic he was engaged in that was relevant, like the farm to school local food initiative. It is no wonder that Vermonters elected and reelected him spanning for 48 years as Vermont's longest serving Senator.

He worked effectively with others on well-considered, forward-looking initiatives that often drew bi-partisan support. Through the years as an experienced leader, Senator Leahy chaired important committees that brought forward federal policies, funds, and legislation to advance:

- Multi-modal transportation, as early as 1982 he brought forward funding for mass transit, and more recently for appropriation for safe routes to schools,
- Agriculture policy, law and funding as chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee including aspects of rural revitalization, nutrition, and forestry, and
- Environmental conservation, protection and climate change responses based on science.

Of particular interest to me, was Leahy's support for historic preservation, working with the Preservation Trust of Vermont and communities on behalf of our statewide heritage assets. As the long-standing Preservation Landscape Architects for Shelburne Farms, an Olmsted legacy landscape, we appreciate Leahy's support for the diverse programs of this remarkable place that seeks to inspire and cultivate learning for a sustainable future.

Through the VT ASLA annual lobbying visits, he was well aware of our profession and works. When engaging with Senator Leahy, who was always cordial, I provided information about Heritage Landscapes' works for the National Mall and Capitol Grounds. He was always pleased to hear about the contributions a Vermont landscape architecture firm was making, especially in Washington, DC. For his continual support over decades for public policy, legislation and funding that aligned with ASLA members' professional values and works, I recommend Senator Patrick Joseph Leahy for recognition as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Best regards,

Patricia M. O'Donnell, PLA, FASLA, AICP, Founder, Partner

Heritage Landscapes LLC

Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners

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