Climate Action and the Built Environment

**Issue**
The performance of residential and commercial buildings must continue to improve in order for California to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

**Background**
California has a strong history adopting standards to protect our environment and to clean the air we breathe. California was the first state to adopt emission standards for vehicles, energy performance standards for appliances, and energy performance standards for buildings.

California has adopted standards regarding sources of energy that power our grid, and has adopted Net Zero Energy standards for residential and commercial buildings.

The majority of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in California come from the transportation and industrial sectors. Combined, those two sectors are responsible for around 60% of California GHG. Buildings, which include both residential and commercial, contribute a sizeable percentage of GHG, probably around 20%.

To meet its GHG reduction targets, the performance standard for buildings must continue to improve. The good news is there is room for improvement, and state standards will be implemented in the coming years.

**Opportunity**
To prepare for the new standards, and growing expectations from clients, AIA California is sponsoring legislation this year to require architects to take 5 hours of continuing education every 2 years in Zero Net Carbon design. AB 1010 (Berman) has already passed the State Assembly. AB 1010 will give California architects the knowledge needed to design buildings according to new building codes and standards, and to take a leadership position in accelerating the decarbonization of buildings.

Architects are experts in the design of buildings and the standards to which they must be designed and built. Architects are ready to be a resource to Legislators.

AIA California is also supporting the following bills this year.

AB 1161 (Eduardo Garcia) State Agency Procurement of Renewable Energy
SB 30 (Cortese) State Building Decarbonization
SB 31 (Cortese) Building Decarbonization
SB 68 (Becker) Building Decarbonization
SB 596 (Becker) Cement and Concrete Production and Greenhouse Gases