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January 31, 2017

To BSA Members:

As 2017 President of the Boston Society of Architects/AIA (BSA), I am writing to express our concern about the effect on the design community of the Executive Order effectively banning people from several predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States.

The international character of the Boston architectural community is essential to its vitality and strength. Students, teachers, and practitioners come to the Boston area from countries around the world to learn and work together. The BSA is deeply concerned about the impact of travel restrictions on our community, and we remain opposed to all violations of human rights. If you know of anyone affected by changes in US travel policies, we can help connect you with organizations that work in this field.

AIA National is preparing a response to the Executive Order to immediately cease the practice of denying access to those seeking lawful entry to the United States. We support their position and will share this with our local political leaders to encourage their opposition to this order and to offer our support should they do so.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind all members of the BSA community to join us at the BSA at 6:00 pm on February 9 for a Town Hall meeting to participate in a frank and open discussion of how to best uphold our values of respect for all people, protecting the natural environment, and working together to serve the greater needs of our community.

Please share your thoughts by emailing president@architects.org or posting your comments directly to the BSA's Facebook page.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josiah Stevenson", written in a cursive style.

Josiah Stevenson FAIA
2017 BSA President