ISSUE BRIEF

S. 3041: Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018
(Companion bill is HR 4460)

The “Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018” (aka “DRRA”) bill seeks to strengthen the processes by which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guides recovery efforts after a disaster. The bill includes 3 enhancements that relate to the health, safety, and welfare of the public after a disaster:

- Requires that FEMA standardize its post-disaster assessment of buildings which currently includes building safety assessments – to include building livability assessments.
- Identifies architects as trained professionals who should be relied upon to assist in FEMA’s post-disaster recovery operations.
- Identifies the American Institute of Architects as the professional organization FEMA is to work with to develop those standards.

Overview:
Excerpt from www.govtrack.us: “The bill amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for disaster recovery reforms, and for other purposes.”

Specifics:
- Introduced 6/11/18 by Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI).
- Co-sponsors (2): Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and John Kennedy (R-LA)
- Assigned to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
- Reported out of Committee on 6/13/18
- There have been no roll call votes related to this bill (as of 7/30/18)

Action:
The American Institute of Architects urges Congress to support the improvements proposed by the “Disaster Recovery Reform Act” and to pass the legislation.