



# IIBEC Advocacy = Fighting for Consultants

**DURING THE ANNUAL** meeting I was pleased to be able to present to the membership IIBEC's *2022 Year in Review* (<https://iibec.org/2022-year-in-review/>). It's designed to be succinct and to correlate with our strategic plan, so as a reader you can discern how well we are serving IIBEC members and the building enclosure profession.

For this column I will focus on advocacy since your leaders will be on Capitol Hill attending the Roofing Day in D.C. 2023, held April 18-19—the time each year when representatives of the roofing industry travel to Washington to meet with our representatives and senators in support of policies that benefit the industry. IIBEC has worked with our fellow roofing industry sponsors to ensure that the issues discussed by the 300-plus attendees are relevant to all associations. I look forward to this event because it will allow me to spend time with IIBEC leaders along with roofing industry leaders as we walk the halls of Congress and visit elected officials and their staff.

But IIBEC advocacy doesn't happen just one day per year. We're at it 24/7, 365 days a year.

In the past year, IIBEC has focused its advocacy efforts on two main areas: 1) improving safety through better building codes; and 2) better procurement rules for building enclosure consultants.

## CODE CHANGES

In 2022, IIBEC scored two code change victories relating to secondary drainage that will be included in the 2024 *International Building Code* and *International Existing Building Code*. Once implemented, these common-sense changes will improve safety. And since (or because) drainage systems never fail on a sunny day, these changes can save lives, too, and that is important. We must remind others that as consultants we have a competing responsibility—or, one might say, a higher responsibility—to ensure the safety of the public. As a matter of fact, it is one of the industry canons that we shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

Another milestone was reached when these code changes were adopted by the state of Georgia in early March. Now these code changes will become part of the Georgia Building Code beginning in 2024 thanks to the efforts of local IIBEC leaders who made the case to Georgia building code officials.

## ANOTHER VICTORY

In February, IIBEC scored another victory when a North Dakota state senate panel agreed with our position and amended legislation to prohibit public entities from purchasing construction services via cooperative purchasing programs. In that case, IIBEC previously submitted testimony outlining our reasoning why cooperative purchasing programs are incompatible with qualifications-based selection and selection of construction design services. IIBEC also has been active in the provinces working to fix local provincial procurement bids that got off track.

Finally, to ensure that state, local and provincial governments follow current procurement laws and regulations, IIBEC has begun to proactively engage with government to ensure that specific project procurements follow regulations already on the books. In Alberta, these polite reminders resulted in the local agency revising the procurement to ensure regulations were actually followed.

These cases exemplify IIBEC's advocacy strategy. We spoke up and gave policy-makers useful advice based on our professional experience backed up with facts. We defined and explained the problem and offered a constructive solution. Policy-makers listened, and legislation was amended to the benefit of IIBEC members and the profession.

On Roofing Day and every other day of the year, we will continue to educate, aggressively, if necessary, elected officials and regulators on the issues important to consultants, and we will offer ourselves as a resource.

IIBEC advocacy continues to work to educate and protect your interests. But advocacy doesn't have to happen just one day a year in Washington—it can happen in your state or province all year long.

Building enclosure consultants and our manufacturing partners have incredible experience and knowledge that we are proud to share. Ask your chapter leaders to schedule a lunch with the local building inspector, elected officials, or other individuals who have oversight over our work.

After all, working together we are exponentially stronger.