

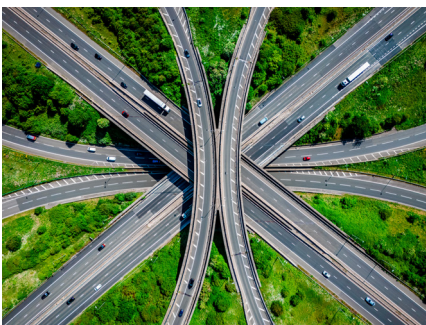
# 2025 Legislative Agenda

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-governmental organization that supports advances in building science and technology. The U.S. Congress established NIBS in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383. Congress recognized the need for an organization to connect research, policy, and practical applications to advance innovation in the built environment. Our mission is to create a safer, more resilient, and technologically advanced infrastructure that serves American communities and strengthens our nation's future.

From shaping industry standards to guiding digital transformation, we empower building professionals, policymakers, and owners to make informed decisions that enhance sustainability, efficiency, and resilience. We convene experts across sectors to develop solutions that ensure construction, infrastructure, and disaster preparedness keep pace with evolving challenges.

As we start the next 50 years, NIBS is energized and renewed in its focus on the public interest. We look forward to working with the 119th Congress and the Administration to advance solutions to the organizations priorities below.

## Legislative Agenda Focus Areas



**Safeguarding Lifeline Infrastructure and  
Accelerating Functional Recovery**



**Addressing the Workforce Crisis**



**Streamlining the Adoption of  
Emerging Technology**

## Safeguarding Lifeline Infrastructure and Accelerating Functional Recovery

Disasters, from storm events to wildfires, have become more frequent and devastating. Safeguarding lifeline services and accelerating the functional recovery of impacted lifeline infrastructure is critical. These systems, which include water, wastewater, electricity, natural gas, liquid fuels, communications, and transportation, are often taken for granted in their seamless operation, and investments must be made to ensure that they continue to operate through and after a disaster to ensure that communities remain functional. Our nation is experiencing an urgent need to better understand and improve aging and unreliable lifeline systems. Lifeline services are critical to protect our communities and essential for disaster recovery.

### Policy Recommendations:

- Support the reauthorization and full funding of the [National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program \(NEHRP\)](#), which was first enacted in 1977 to reduce risks to life and property from future earthquakes in the United States by establishing and maintaining an effective earthquake hazards reduction program.
- Support the re-introduction and advancement of the [Earthquake Resilience Act](#), which would direct federal agencies to study the nation's earthquake resiliency to better understand how communities can prepare for future disasters. It would also require the NEHRP to develop standards for designing resilient lifeline infrastructure, which would reduce community recovery time following an event.
- Support the reauthorization and full funding of the [National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program \(NWIRP\)](#), which aims to achieve measurable reductions in the loss of life and property from windstorms through a coordinated Federal effort in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector.
- Support the re-introduction and the advancement of the [Building and Upgrading Infrastructure for the Long Term \(BUILT\) Act](#), which will promote forward-looking research into climate resiliency by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to facilitate research on how climate conditions can affect subsurface properties and how technology can be used to assess infrastructure integrity risks as well as to convene workshops across the public and private sector.
- Lead and support the development of modern and resilient standards, codes, and criteria for our lifeline infrastructure, bringing the benefits that have been proven through the development and adoption of model building codes in the past 50 years.

## Addressing the Workforce Crisis

Over the last decade, the United States has reached a crisis point in ensuring that a “full pipeline” of skilled workers is available to meet the needs of our built environment that is rapidly and dynamically expanding and transforming, often on a legacy foundation of aging and failing buildings and infrastructure. Our nation does not have enough people to build and maintain our bridges, hospitals, data centers, utilities, and other critical infrastructure, making the workforce shortage more than an industry challenge but a national security issue. One solution is that more women must be recruited, trained, and retained to address this shortage collaboratively across the entirety of the built environment, from material production to the design, construction, installation, commissioning, maintenance, operations, retirement, and renewal.

**Policy Recommendations:**

- Support the modernization and the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), enacted in 2014 to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and match employers with the skilled workers they need.
- Strengthening registered apprenticeships to include wrap-around services like childcare and pay-for-classroom learning portions can help broaden the talent pipeline and increase women's participation and completion.
- Support and amplify successful workforce programs and initiatives at the state and regional levels.

**Streamlining the Adoption of Emerging Technology**

The U.S. construction sector faces increased material costs, labor shortages, and operational efficiency challenges. Streamlined adoption of emerging technology can help alleviate these strains and improve output. Modular construction can shorten construction schedules and improve building performance, but it remains less than 6% of the commercial construction market in the U.S. and Canada. Digital twins can be used to predict changes that may affect their physical counterparts and can be deployed in facility operations to support asset management and space optimization, including who will use the space, how, when, and what assets will live there. Adopting codes, standards, and regulatory consistency for these new technologies, like modular construction and the use of digital twins, will help protect the public interest.

**Policy Recommendations:**

- Establish value-driven digitalized asset management for the built environment.
- Support the adoption of codes and standards and regulatory consistency for modular construction at all levels of government.
- Support the adoption of standards and regulations for implementing digital twins in the construction industry, which include agreed-upon definitions and address security and privacy risks.
- Support the safe and meaningful integration of small modular nuclear reactors into the US power grid.



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