

December 15, 2016

Dear Members of the Appraisal Institute Board of Directors:

At the December 8, 2016 General Membership meeting, the present Inland Northwest Chapter membership voted unanimously to formally express our dissatisfaction with the Appraisal Institute's new Financial Management and Administration Policy. Perhaps our greatest concern, rather than the policy itself, is the way in which it was formulated and implemented by the AI National Board of Directors, essentially in vacuo. During the December 6th conference call explaining the new policy, a representative of the National Board indicated that this policy had been under consideration for roughly 18 months. During that time frame, the Board members and various AI committees that formed the policy had numerous interactions with the general membership and chapter leaders on various topics, but were conspicuously silent on the matter of chapter finances.

There has been no opportunity for thoughtful consideration and discussion of the policy by those who would be most impacted. It appears this was by design, as the measure was not discussed outside of executive session until November 2016. This lack of transparency would be a sound strategy, if your goal were to force a potentially unpopular policy and you were not concerned with your members' opinions or perceptions. At the least, the announcement of the policy and the following response indicates a lack of concern for AI membership or a lack of foresight, neither of which is acceptable.

The policy itself may be justifiable (though our membership is not convinced of this fact). However, the chapters and your members have not been given sufficient information or justification on which to debate its merits or comprehend its impact. One thing is clear, the sustainability of our organization depends on our membership trusting AI national leadership to act in the members' best interest. The methods used to formulate and approve this proposal *do not* inspire that trust. The Board should take the time necessary to adequately inform the membership, consider their feedback, and regain their trust.

Therefore, the Inland Northwest Chapter of the Appraisal Institute respectfully requests that you forestall the implementation of the Financial Management and Administration Policy until chapters have had the opportunity to fully understand its ramifications. Further, we request that the board consider feedback from the members regarding the policy and its implementation. The delay need not be indefinite; 45 days should suffice.

Respectfully,



Michael P. Bousley, MAI, President

On behalf of the Inland Northwest Chapter of the Appraisal Institute.