

Testimony Presented on HB 1465 to the  
House Industry, Business and Labor Committee  
Representative Scott Louser, Chair

by  
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Registered Landscape Architect #39 in the State of North Dakota

Chair and members of the North Dakota House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, today I submit testimony in support of HB 1465. This bill would allow two landscape architecture seats on the North Dakota State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (The State Board), making it a five member board. The State Board ensures that those that practice Landscape Architecture are duly qualified through education, examination and experience. I am a registered Landscape Architect, holding North Dakota License #39 and I welcome this addition to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of the public are ensured the safe practice of Landscape Architecture.

I moved to the State of North Dakota in 2007, following a twenty year career as a landscape architect in the State of Kansas and the State of Texas. Prior to my job in public practice, I worked in private practice working under Engineers and Architects. When considering moving to North Dakota, I evaluated the status of my ability to practice and how that would be regulated. My concerns were reconciled knowing that my profession and its industry standards were on par with the latest North American standards, since the regulation bill had just been adopted in 2005. However early in my career in North Dakota, I discovered while regulated, the oversight and technical reviews of the profession did not include the expertise of practicing landscape architects.

I have served in various volunteer capacities to advance landscape architecture, and currently serve as a board member at-large for the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB). CLARB represents state boards to advance the landscape architecture profession throughout North America, specifically administrating the uniform licensure exam and supporting the executive staff members of State Boards.

CLARB is a thought leader encouraging frictionless entry into the profession as one of their primary goals. We promote this without watering down the standards of the profession. We are actively growing the pipeline of professionals, for example capturing graduates of NDSU before they leave to practice in other states. Per capita, North Dakota has one of the lowest number of practitioners in the country.

Landscape Architects are needed in North Dakota now more than ever. North Dakota is a beautiful state, with many wonderful opportunities. Unfortunately the limited opportunities in landscape architecture minimizes the number of practitioners living within the state. Additionally, as a public sector representative responsible for recommending Landscape Architecture consultants, this limits the opportunity to hire local practitioners. Adding this provision in the State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, closes a significant professional protection gap, and encourages local practitioners to thrive while also more fully protecting the public.

As a public servant for the City of Fargo who is also a state registered landscape architect, I strongly encourage a **DO PASS** of HB 1465.