

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1465
House Industry Business and Labor
January 31, 2023

Chairman Louser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Krumwiede and I am here today representing the ND State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. For the past 26 years, our firm (the Staiger Consulting Group) has served as the board's Executive Director Team and provided central office functions. Among our many responsibilities, the licensing function is primary. Our board has concerns on HB 1465 and asks that you give the bill a Do Not Pass recommendation as introduced.

To give a little history the ND State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture did not always include Landscape Architecture. When Landscape Architects were added in the state they were placed under the State Board of Architecture in order to offer a means by which they could be licensed. At that time the make up of the board was looked at and it was determined that because we had not known how many would be licensed to leave the make up of the board as it sits today with 3 Architect members.

Since that time we have had an increase from 0 to 114 Landscape Architects licensed in the state. Of that 114 only 22 are residents of North Dakota. To give a full picture of how this compares to the whole of licenses issued, we currently have 1270 Architects and Landscape Licensed in the State. That would make the 114 Landscape Architects making up only 9% of all licenses issued. Furthermore, due to the bill requiring that to serve on the board you need to be an active practice as a principal architect in the state, we currently have 182 in state Architects and Landscape Architects, of which only 22 are Landscape Architects. This is a percentage of only 12 percent being licensed Landscape Architects. House Bill 1465 would change the representation of Landscape Architects to 40% of the board.

The ND State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture does feel it represents the Landscape Architecture profession by designating one of its current members as a representative of ND to the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards or CLARB. CLARB is the licensing standard organization and the administrator of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. (L.A.R.E.) The current member of the board who is the representative to CLARB actually has a minor in Landscape Architecture.

The Board relies on architect members to provide subject matter expertise.

Architect members review architect applications, assist with rulemaking procedures, investigate bad actors and consumer complaints, and more. We feel any reduction in the number of architect members may impact the Board's ability to carry out its mission to protect the public.

For these reasons above we believe that it would be difficult to justify changing the make up of the board to the 2 Architect, 2 Landscape Architects, and one lay person. We've found that getting volunteers for the positions is difficult and now having to add 2 more members could prove problematic.

In reference to the lay person in section c of the bill being someone who is not associated with the design, construction, or related consulting industries would also prove problematic as this takes a lot of people who may be candidates off the table. Much like many things in ND it is hard to find someone who in no way is somewhat associated with design, construction, or related consulting industries. So for that reason if there is a lay person we feel it should be anyone who is not currently a licensed under this statute(or their spouse).

In summation we feel that this bill does not propose a true representation of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in the state as written and we would ask for your DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB 1465. Thank you for your consideration and I will stand for any questions.