

Testimony Presented on HB 1465 to the House, Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Representative Scott Louser, Chair

By

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Chair and members of the North Dakota House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, today I share my testimony in support of HB 1465, which would add two Landscape Architecture representatives to the North Dakota State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (The State Board). The oversight of The State Board ensures that constituents of North Dakota are served by qualified, licensed professionals in the professions of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. No one can deny the important role that The State Board plays to protect the health safety and welfare of the public, and I thank them for their work in supporting the integrity of the design professions that shape our communities.

The buildings we inhabit have a profound influence on our daily lives. Similarly, the parks, trails, and natural amenities of North Dakota elevate our everyday experience and can positively influence the quality of life for our residents today, as well as for those who do not yet call North Dakota home. Prior to moving here eight years ago, I practiced as a registered Landscape Architect in the State of Kansas for nearly a decade. It wasn't an easy decision to leave my home state, but the beautiful landscapes and outdoor amenities my family experienced here were reassuring and constant. The beauty of which can't be made possible without the expertise of Landscape Architects who practice here in North Dakota.

When I was appointed as a Landscape Architect representative to the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission in 2018, I was proud to learn about the important influence that the Landscape Architecture profession has had on these grounds. In 1919, following legislative reforms that expanded State agencies, a team of Landscape Architects were commissioned to organize the layout of the grounds, buildings, parks, and open spaces for all to enjoy. Despite the evolution of our modern times, this master plan continues to support the longstanding identity of our Capitol, preserves important cultural landscapes, and creates gathering spaces for constituents and visitors.

As a registered Landscape Architect, I also volunteer my time as a member of the Bismarck Planning and Zoning Commission and have had the privilege to see how my fellow Landscape Architects are improving our City. Working alongside Architects and Engineers, my Landscape Architecture colleagues are influencing new ways of approaching development that better utilizes existing infrastructure, preserves our natural resources, diversifies housing opportunities, and presents community amenities that help attract and retain new residents to our communities.

I share these examples with you to underscore the impact these practitioners have had in the State of North Dakota and to emphasize the need for appropriate representation of the Landscape Architecture profession on The State Board. As an appointed member of the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission, a volunteer member of the Bismarck Planning and Zoning Commission, and a Registered Landscape Architect in North Dakota, I thoroughly endorse a **DO PASS** of HB 1465.