

30 January 2023

North Dakota House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Representative Scott Louser, Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1465

Chairman Louser and Members of the North Dakota House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, it is with great pleasure and with a long-term commitment to the greater good of the public that is served by the allied and synergistic disciplines of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, that I share these thoughts in support of HB 1465.

As the State of North Dakota continues to evolve, grow and mature; and lead in supporting many facets of industry, this bill would advance and strengthen the regulatory work of the State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture by balancing the representation of these two professions on it.

The profession of Landscape Architecture is not represented on the current State Board, this bill would provide for equal representation by Landscape Architects, which in turn would improve the Board's ability to regulate and oversee both Architecture and Landscape Architecture. And would create a more fertile ground for both professions to continue to collaborate to the betterment of North Dakota and its' citizens—both in the realm of public safety and welfare and to the benefit its' communities.

The Landscape Architecture Program at NDSU has a proud and enduring legacy of educating new practitioners who have established themselves and flourished all over the country and world, as well as within North Dakota. As one of the founders of the Program, and as someone that has a deep sense of enduring pride and accomplishment in being involved in the Program receiving its' initial accreditation, it is time to see the profession equally represented on the governing body that regulates the profession in the state—it is a natural progression. Approving this bill will signal to all Landscape Architects that there are ongoing opportunities in North Dakota that are supported by its' legislators and its' governing body.

An affirmative vote to move this bill forward is to the direct benefit of the citizens of North Dakota and the quality of their communities. Landscape Architects are collaborative, by nature, as members of teams that ensure public safety, protect natural resources, and sustainably manage the natural and built environs that surround us.

Thank you for your consideration and support of House Bill 1465.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathew J. Torgerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mathew J. Torgerson

NDSU graduate in Horticulture / Landscape Design option.

Former NDSU Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture during the time (1989-1997) that the Program earned its' initial national accreditation for its' Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree. Co-leader of the effort to get accreditation with Dennis Colliton, Program Chair.

Former Workplace Environs Manager for Great Plains Software during the time that the Fargo Campus came to fruition and the worldwide manager of the Great Plains Software real estate portfolio after Great Plains Software went public.

Former Senior Real Estate Portfolio Manager for Microsoft Corporation with responsibilities that included designing, building and operating the Microsoft Fargo Campus. The Microsoft Fargo Campus Master Plan is the work of a Landscape Architect.