

Testimony Presented on HB 1465 to the Senate Industry and Business Committee

Senator Doug Larsen, Chair

By

Wendy Van Duyne, appointed member of the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission, volunteer member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Bismarck, and Registered Landscape Architect #112 in the State of North Dakota

Chair and members of the North Dakota Senate Industry and Business Committee, today I share my testimony in support of HB 1465, which would provide an opportunity to include Landscape Architecture representation 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.

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. 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. This legislation would open the door for appropriate representation of Landscape Architects on the board that oversees our profession in the State of North Dakota.

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 urge you to support amendments to HB 1465, as presented on March 13th testimony by Craig Larson and introduced by Representative Longmuir, to change the state board from 3 members to 5 members, with one member being a Landscape Architect and one member being a public member.