

March 13, 2023

HB1465

Senate Industry and Business Committee

**Testimony in support of HB1465 and recommended amendments**

Jolene Rieck, PLA

Licensed Landscape Architect ND #8

Bismarck, North Dakota

Chairman Larsen and members of the committee, my name is Jolene Rieck and I am the Director of Landscape Architecture for the West Region at WSB, whose office is located in Bismarck. I have previously served as the National Licensure Committee Chair for the American Society of Landscape Architects and hold North Dakota Landscape Architecture License #8.

The purpose of licensing design professionals is to protect public health, safety and welfare. Landscape architects are licensed in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia. The enforcement of licensure is an act of state licensure boards, including North Dakota. In the rare instance where an issue arises, it is the duty of the licensure board to investigate the complaint and to provide a fair adjudication process.

The current board scenario does not provide a fair and equitable representation of landscape architects when reviewing licensure complaints. The purpose of HB1465 is to ensure that in the event of an adjudication process, a complaint against a landscape architect is heard by at least one landscape architecture member on the board. In many states, a best practice is to have at least two landscape architects appointed to a board so that in the event of a conflict of interest or an absence, the process has at least one licensed landscape architect on the panel.

Another strategy is to appoint a non-design professional as a public member of the board. The proposed language change presented here today would provide that as an option. During an adjudication process, the public member can provide an external lens to the process, providing public representation.

Please consider the amendments set forth before this committee to ensure equity and parity in the process to protect public health, safety and welfare. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information on Landscape Architecture Licensure, please visit:

<https://www.asla.org/licensureadvocacy.aspx>