

12 March 2023

North Dakota Senate Industry and Business Committee
Senator Doug Larson, Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1465 as Amended

Chairman Larson and Members of the North Dakota Senate Industry and Business 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 amended.

The profession of Landscape Architecture is not represented on the current State Board, this bill would ensure representation by Landscape Architects, which in turn would improve the Board's ability to regulate and oversee both Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The language as it stands, and has passed in the House, does not make certain that a Landscape Architect will be added to the Board. The proposed amendment allows for the addition of two (2) new members to the Board—one (1) a Landscape Architect and one (1) a Member At Large.

As the State of North Dakota continues to evolve, grow, and mature; and lead in supporting advancements in design and construction, this bill, as amended, would advance and strengthen the regulatory work of the State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture by providing for representation by a Landscape Architect on it.

As background, the Landscape Architecture Program at NDSU has a proud and enduring legacy of educating new practitioners who have established themselves and flourished. As one of the founders of the Program, it is time to see the profession 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. Please provide a DO PASS recommendation as amended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathew J. Torgerson", with a stylized flourish 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.