

S. EDWARD JETER, AIA -- ARCHITECT
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March 15, 2009

The Government Administration and Elections Committee
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06
Attn: Honorable Senator Gayle Slossberg
Honorable Representative James Spallone

Re: HB 6375 An Act Concerning Review and Termination of Certain Boards and Commissions

Dear Honorable Senator Gayle Slossberg and Honorable Representative James Spallone

I am writing relative to the above bill and its termination of many Boards and Commissions, and specifically #54 Architectural Licensing Board, established under section 20-289 of the general statutes. I can not believe that the State does not feel it necessary to watch out for the Public Health, Safety and Welfare with regard to buildings and constructions to be built in this State by having unlicensed, unmeasured practice of Architecture. It is not just a rudimentary thing to grant an Architectural License to someone. From a cost standpoint the Board is a winner for the State since it is unpaid and the only expense to the State is for mileage reimbursement for travel to the meetings. This is a small sum which, if it makes that much difference to the state, the members have indicated they would forgo. The return to the State is very large. In addition to reviewing and issuing licenses to individuals applying for licensure, the Board also reviews cases of improper or fraudulent practice. The members also review those individuals seeking a license, who have not gone through all of the various education requirements, for equivalency of training. If they pass this review, then they are permitted to sit for the NCARB licensure exam. The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) is an entity composed of the members of the Architecture Licensure Boards (ALB) in all of the States. It is these members, including members of our ALB, who help write the exams among many other tasks the NCARB performs. The time etc. spent by the members who are active with NCARB is no expense to the State but gives a great return, and is the State's opportunity to help guide and influence NCARB in its decisions and work. Some NCARB members also work on the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB) accreditation visits. I should mention that the University of Hartford's Architectural program has now recently become accredited. This is a great new asset for our State.

The bottom line is that the State gains a tremendous benefit from having the Architectural Licensing Board for very little to no expense. I do hope you and your committee clearly see the value of the State Architectural Licensure Board and do not terminate this valuable entity of our State Government.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Very truly yours,

S. Edward Jeter,
Chair of the State Architectural Licensure Board

3-16-09
GAE

Please accept my written testimony for S.B. No. 839 AN ACT CONCERNING MERGERS AND CONSOLIDATIONS OF VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES today March 16, 2009 as follows:

I am writing to encourage you to ensure that the Council on Environmental Quality remains Connecticut's independent environmental watchdog and thus, continues to provide a forum for the public to question CT DEP decisions affecting their communities.

CEQ actions rectified the improper permitting of a dam by the CT DEP in my Storrs neighborhood. Without the CEQ, an ordinary citizen like me couldn't have prevailed, let alone be heard.

The CEQ also serves as Connecticut's environmental sentinel. The indicators of environmental trends, which are compiled and published each year, establish the statistical thresholds of the effects of government policy and individual actions on the environment that sustains us.

Please do what's necessary to keep the CEQ independent.

Thank you.

Helen Koehn

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