

March 11, 2009

Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Governor's Bill No. 6375  
An Act Concerning Review and Termination of  
Certain Boards and Commissions**

Dear Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the State Board of Landscape Architects, I respectfully request that you take whatever action is appropriate to retain the Board. We certainly appreciate the fiscal condition that our state is facing and commend the General Assembly and the Governor for taking measures to reduce expenditures wherever possible. However, the Board of Landscape Architects is a volunteer board whose members are only reimbursed for mileage to attend quarterly meetings. That cost is estimated to be less than \$1,000 annually. When we last met, the board voted to forego our mileage reimbursement if it meant that the board could continue to serve the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and the residents of Connecticut.

The Board of Landscape Architects has been consistently conscious of operating costs and has sought avenues to be more efficient. Toward that end, we have streamlined the application process for new licensees and for those professionals seeking reciprocity. The current process implemented several years ago allowed our board administrator to focus his attention to his duties for other boards and commissions that he serves. We have taken advantage of electronic communication and have reduced the number of meetings from 12 to four per year. By our participation in a national credentials review and a centralized examination administration process, we have further reduced the time and costs of administration. Despite these efforts, the board still has a role in protecting the health and safety of the public that cannot be delegated to DCP staff, who do not have the training or professional expertise to make judgments on the qualifications of licensees, particularly those whose education and experience may be questionable and in instances where consumer complaints need to be evaluated. In short, the Board of Landscape Architects contributes significantly more to the protection of the consumer than the cost it will take to keep the board in existence and does not in any way adversely affect the ability of a licensee to conduct business in Connecticut.

For these reasons, we believe the Board of Landscape Architects should be retained.  
Very truly yours,



State Board of Landscape Architects  
W. Phillips Barlow ASLA