



ASLA

Testimony Submitted to the General Law Committee

**In Support of: S.B. No. 1002, AN ACT CONCERNING THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**Submitted By: Roderick Cameron, President
Connecticut Chapter of The American Society of
Landscape Architects**

Public Hearing Date: March 3, 2009

Good afternoon, Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro and members of the General Law Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to you today regarding this policy initiative.

My name is Rod Cameron. I am a licensed landscape architect, and am employed at CCA, LLC, a Brookfield, CT-based company providing civil engineering, surveying and landscape architectural services. I am also the president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The Connecticut Chapter of ASLA is very excited to testify in support of proposed changes to Section 20-306b of the Connecticut General Statutes, as these modifications will rectify an ownership structure issue that has come to our attention in the last handful of years.

The issue revolves around the joint practice of Civil Engineering, Surveying, and Landscape Architecture in a multi-discipline firm. Currently the chapter regulating such activities for civil engineers and surveyors, chapter 391, prescribes ownership requirements that must be met by the participating joint practice firm in order to legally exist as a joint practice. This chapter currently mandates that a minimum of two thirds of a joint practice company be owned by engineers, architects and surveyors, and that a minimum of twenty percent of the company must be owned by at least one member of each of the disciplines forming the company. Since the profession of landscape architecture is not included in this chapter, it precludes landscape architects in Connecticut from owning more than a thirty percent share in a multidisciplinary joint practice firm. There are examples of firms operating under this condition in the state that we know of, and whose attorneys have pointed out this situation to them as potentially problematic both from a legal and liability standpoint.

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Our recommended modifications to section 306b include provisions which would allow landscape architects the ability to form joint practice companies under the same provisions that currently exist in the engineering and surveying professions. In addition, we propose the elimination of the minimum ownership requirement for each participating profession. The joint practice would still mandate a two-thirds ownership by any combination of one or more of the participating disciplines. There is no adverse effect on public health, safety or welfare, as the licensed professionals in responsible charge are still governed by their respective licensing requirements and professional practices as they are today.

These proposed modifications allow the landscape architectural profession in Connecticut to legally form joint practices with allied disciplines, and provides additional ownership flexibility and creativity in a time of increasing joint practice complexity and diversity. Although minimal, it is expected that the passage of this act would result in additional revenue for the state at \$450 per year for each registered joint practice firm previously precluded from such registration.

We have, and continue to work with the Connecticut Engineers in Private Practice (CEPP), the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (CTAIA), and Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors (CALS) to refine issues. Based on these discussions it has been made clear that it is not the intent of any group, or chapter 391, to prohibit a landscape architectural ownership joint practice configuration. A letter of support has been submitted along with this testimony from the Connecticut Engineers in Private Practice on the language currently proposed.

We at the Connecticut Chapter of The American Society of Landscape Architects look forward to your review and thank you for your time.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.