

February 17, 2015

Senator Carlo Leone, Co-Chairman
Representative David Baram, Co-Chairman
Members of the General Law Committee

Provided by: Aris W. Stalis, PLA

SUBJECT: Testimony RE: SB 152 - An Act Concerning Landscape Architect Licenses

Licensure is one of the highest credentials that can be granted to any group to help protect the health and safety and welfare of the public. The deviation to achieve licensure through the proposed bill with reduced experience and education requirements will harm the value of services provided by landscape architects to the public

The professions of architecture, engineering and landscape architecture are known as practices. This language, which is part of our legal definition, provides permission from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to “practice” within the State of Connecticut. The word highlights the importance of education and experience in our profession. Along with an exam, they form the legs of our license to assure the public that an appropriate level of knowledge has been gained when permission is granted by the DCP.

Easing educational standards reduces the knowledge and one of the foundation “legs” that helps a person practice as a landscape architect. The education includes the complexities of ecology, roadway design, grading and drainage, liability and protection of the public, as well as numerous other facets that assist in the decision making on a daily basis in our practice.

Time spent gaining experience prior to receiving permission to practice begins the process of implementing the tools acquired in our education. Knowledge and experience brings together the understanding, ultimately leading to a comprehensive exam process that leads to licensure. Experience in the fields of architecture, engineering and landscape architecture cannot be underemphasized. The knowledge provides the foundation of elements for the practice by professionals to let them implement an appropriate level of professional practice.

Approving the law would diminish the level of knowledge in the field, and will reduce the security entrusted to the public by the state when they engage with a licensed professional. Please vote no for SB 158.