

February 15, 2015 E-mail to executivedirector@ctasia.org

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

Re: SB-158, An Act Concerning Landscape Architect Licenses

I just became aware of Senator Clark Chapin's proposal to remove the restrictions from the licensing requirements for Landscape Architects. I find it hard to believe that anyone would even suggest weakening the laws that protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. Not only that, but it would put Connecticut's landscape architects out of sync with the other 49 States that have the same restrictive laws. This, of course, would also prevent Connecticut's landscape architects from reciprocity in other states.

The suggested changes include:

- 1) Eliminating the requirement for taking the nationally accepted LARE exam.
- 2) Reducing the requirement for a degree from an accredited college program.
- 3) The current law already makes an exception for the person who does not acquire the accepted educational requirements by requiring eight years of experience under the direction of a licensed landscape architect before they can sit for the exam.

Education, experience, and examination are the core principles of licensure and demonstrate to the state that a person is minimally competent to uphold the public's interest in the practice of landscape architecture. The field is a complex mix of site planning services which involves grading, erosion control, planting, hardscapes, lighting, stormwater management, traffic and pedestrian flow, and the protection of our natural resources such as wetlands, soils, and wildlife.

Our present strong licensure standard is well respected by peer professionals and government officials, who trust that our work will follow local, state and federal regulations and adequately protect the public in the design of public and private outdoor spaces.

Please oppose SBB-158, as it will only weaken the protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Sincerely,



Richard Bergmann