



The Project Studio
for Landscape Architecture and Spatial Studies

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

SB-158, An Act Concerning Landscape Architect Licenses

Dear Chairmen Leone and Baram and Member of the General Law Committee:

As a former but long time member of the Connecticut Landscape Architecture Licensing Board, I strongly oppose SB-158, An Act Concerning Landscape Architect Licenses. As presently written, this bill would greatly weaken the licensure standard for landscape architects in Connecticut by:

Potentially eliminating the requirement for the rigorous and nationally accepted LARE exam, which is currently required by all 50 states to gain licensure. **Without this credential, those of us who practice nationally, or even regionally would be at significant disadvantage, or possibly even disqualified from pursuing work outside the state.**

Reducing the technical training required. Under the existing law, licensure applicants must acquire a degree from a college program accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), such as UConn's landscape architecture program. The proposed bill says this training is unimportant and can be replaced with any "bachelor's degree" and three years training. **As an employer in Connecticut for 34 years, I can attest to the bare minimum adequacy of the training from even the accredited programs.** The existing legislation is not exclusionary; by requiring additional experience, it provides an alternative route to licensure for the person who has not acquired an LAAB-accredited education

I believe the state's current licensing law sets an appropriate standard for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public and places the practitioners of the state at parity with those of the rest of the nation. It should not be weakened. I therefore urge you to oppose SB-158.

Sincerely,

Shavaun Towers

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