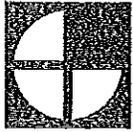


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March 6, 2015

TESTIMONY OF HARRISON GILL III, AIA
REGARDING SENATE BILL 1032

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee: My name is Harrison Gill. I am a long-standing member of the American Institute of Architects and I am here to speak in support of Senate Bill 1032, *An Act Concerning the Applicability of the Statute of Limitations to Construction and Design Actions Brought by the State or a Political Subdivision of the State*.

I am a licensed Architect with offices in Norwalk, Connecticut. I am a principal owner of two architectural firms, one of which had been headquartered in Stamford for 32 years at the time of our acquisition in 2009. I have been licensed to practice architecture in Connecticut for 29 years. My father is a retired architect and engineer and my grandfather became a registered architect in Connecticut in 1934. I began providing architectural services to the State of Connecticut more than 25 years ago. I am proud of the works my colleagues and I have done for the State; we consistently receive excellent reviews for the services we provide. I hope you have visited the Stamford Courthouse, a project for which Fred Preiss was principal architect and on which I worked. Upon Fred's retirement, I purchased the Stamford firm of Preiss/Breismeister PC which I now own and operate with my wife and partner.

According to the Supreme Court ruling in Lombardo vs. the State of Connecticut, in the purchase of Preiss/Breismeister PC, I unknowingly also purchased significant unending liability.

I am here to ask that you support a Statute of Limitations with the State for those in the Design and Construction industry. Our neighboring States have a Statute of Limitations. A Statute of Limitations for design and construction services is a fair and reasonable contractual agreement for a State which wishes to foster and encourage small business growth and development.

The cost of doing business where liability is never ending is significant, placing an undue burden on architectural firms, the vast majority of which are Small Businesses. Insurance expenses will only increase.

I urge you all to vote in favor of this bill and send it to the full legislature for an affirmative vote.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions.

Harrison Gill III, AIA