OFFICE:

306 North State Capitol
Post Office Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

(608) 266-1190
Fax: (608) 282-3632
Toll-Free: (888) 529-0032
Rep.Lothian@legis.state.wi.us

District
539 Park Ridge Road
Williams Bay, WI 53191
(262) 245-5901

THOMAS A. LOTHIAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

32ND DISTRICT

Cities:
Delavan, Lake Geneva

Towns:
Bloomfield, Darien, Delavan, Geneva, Linn, Lyons, Sharon, Walworth, Wheatland

Villages:
Darien, Fontana, Genoa City, Sharon, Walworth, Williams Bay

Rep. Tom Lothian
Assembly Bill 667 – Public Hearing
Assembly Committee on Labor & Industry
February 20, 2008

Thank you, Chairman Honadel and committee members, for holding a public hearing on AB 667. I have been joined by Shawn Kelly, a constituent of mine and landscape architect that brought this issue to my attention.

The job of a landscape architect includes the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of land and water resources. They are trained to work on site planning, roadway design, pedestrian and automobile circulation, wetland construction, park and trail systems, erosion control, and stormwater management.

In Wisconsin, only certified landscape architects can use the title of a landscape architect. Anyone can perform the duties of a landscape architect as long as they do not use this title.

AB 667 would take this one step further. It simply states that only licensed landscape architects can perform the duties of a landscape architect. This would allow Wisconsin to join 41 other states that provide this protection.

This bill was first introduced last session in a much more restrictive form. We have listened to the concerns of the landscape industry and have exempted all residential and most commercial properties. This would allow home owners and small businesses to hire whoever they wanted for their landscape projects.

You will hear testimony today about how AB 667 will negatively affect the landscape industry in this state. I would like you to keep two things in mind when listening to this testimony. First, as I mentioned before, this is already law in 41 other states. Second, according to the American Nursery and Landscape Association, during the six year period that over half of these laws were passed, landscape revenue doubled from $14.6 billion to over $28 billion.

Thank you, again, for holding a hearing on AB 667. I would like to turn it over to Shawn to detail the importance this bill will have for his industry.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON AB 667, 20 February 2008

Shawn T. Kelly, ASLA
P.O. Box 430
Williams Bay, Wisconsin
53191
262.245.1111 office
262.245.5752 home
kellydesigngroup@msn.com

I support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin. I urge you to support this effort by a profession dedicated to preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare. Our current Title Act is an important first step to professional recognition, which needs to be followed by the Practice Act in Wisconsin.

This legislation is not original to Wisconsin. Currently **forty one** (41) other states have similar laws which provide for a practice act for Landscape Architects. This legislation will change the current certificate for registered Landscape Architects to a license. In the other forty one states with such licensure there exists similar language to our proposed law, with like exemptions to practice which allow other occupations and professions to act within the limits of their abilities and liabilities. I have personally called or emailed most of the Landscape Contractors Associations in these forty one states, with the specific question of how the bill in their state has negatively affected their industry. Not one group has responded with a negative reply. Our national organization, the American Society of Landscape Architects has collected data which reveals that the **landscaping industry in each of the states with Practice Acts for Landscape Architects, dating from 1997 to 2002, has demonstrated an increase in revenue from $14.6 billion to over $28 billion in that space of time**. Landscape designers have increased their revenues three fold over the same time in those same states (American Society of Landscape Architects. Landscape Architecture Laws Regulatory Board Type. 15 June 2007).

The bill before you is taken from the **slash seven** iteration of our proposed legislation. **Last year** a different bill was before the Labor Committee for similar legislation. This earlier bill was not read, and did not proceed. The bill before you has been aligned with the existing bills in the states with Practice Acts for Landscape Architects. The exemptions to practice have gained support from allied professionals, and were granted unanimous approval by the **Joint Board of Technical Registration in Wisconsin**. This Joint Board has members from the Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Designers, and Landscape Architects professions. The unanimous support of this group for our efforts says that we should be accorded equal status as a profession with a practice act.

The practice of landscape architecture in Wisconsin is hindered by the lack of a license for professional practitioners. I maintain my license in another state (California license # 3320), along with my certificate in Wisconsin (Wisconsin # 59) because it allows my firm to compete for projects which require a licensed professional to participate on the design team. Many large projects, typically those headquartered in other states, assemble design teams that require licensed professionals. Any Federal project requires a licensed professional to provide design services. My colleagues in Wisconsin, while certified, do not hold a valid license. The lack of licensure in Wisconsin provides unfair competition from professionals outside the state who hold valid licenses, even though the requirements for such a license are the same as the certificate in Wisconsin.

There is no additional cost to the government to provide the license for Landscape Architects above that which currently exists for the certificate. The infrastructure is in place in the Joint Board of Technical Registration (in support of our bill), with **no cost in additional oversight or personnel** needed. This structure was provided by the current Title protection act.

The profession of Landscape Architecture is based on the **protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public**. I have had the pleasure of teaching in the Landscape Architecture Department at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, for the past fourteen (14) years, along with maintaining my professional practice in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. The **requirements for licensure**, and our current title act, begin with the **need to graduate from an accredited program in Landscape Architecture**. This **accreditation** is beyond standard University accreditation. The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) hosts the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), which is comprised of teams who visit programs in Landscape Architecture to review their teaching, facilities, faculty, and students, and measure them against national standards for the practice. All the review is based on the same platform which is the mission statement of the CLARB and LAAB: the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. There are currently forty four (44) undergraduate and thirty five (35) graduate programs accredited in the United States, and six total in Canada.

Our program in **Madison is the only accredited Landscape Architecture program in Wisconsin**. The various UW campuses provide classes in Landscape Design, typically within the Departments of Horticulture. These programs produce excellent landscape designers, with broad understanding of plants and typically residential design. These other programs in Landscape Design provided within the University of Wisconsin system, and their graduates, are unaffected by this AB 667. The difference between the accredited program and the design programs is in scope and scale, typically. Landscape Design has a more specific focus on plants and human interactions than does the broader, health, safety, and welfare focus of the Madison program. The **coexistence** of Landscape Architectural practices and Landscape Designers, horticulturalists,

garden centers, and landscapers is proven in the other forty one states with legislation similar to that which we are proposing in AB 667. My original license is in a state which has had a practice act since the early 1950's. All the allied professions have a record of success in the climate provided by a practice act for Landscape Architects.

The second requirement for licensure (currently certificate) in Wisconsin is the need to **apprentice with a Licensed (or, in Wisconsin, certified) Landscape Architect for two years**. This time period for apprenticeship varies per state, and sometimes with the degree achieved (Masters or Bachelors). The intent of the internship requirement for the graduate is that they become acquainted with the parameters of professional practice and, again, the application of his or her skills toward the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

The third requirement for licensure (certification in Wisconsin) is the **successful completion of the Landscape Architectural Registration Examination (LARE)**. This test has been three (3) eight (8) hour days of examination, with a current pass rate in the upper thirty percentile (30%). The rigor of this test is maintained by the author, CLARB, who also hosts the Accreditation Teams. Once again, the basis for the examination is the public health, safety, and welfare. Once this final piece is passed the individual who has completed all the above requirements can apply to the state for a license (certificate currently in Wisconsin) to practice the art and science of Landscape Architecture. In Wisconsin with our current title-only act this means that an individual may only call themselves a Landscape Architect once they have satisfied the above requirements. Anyone can perform the services associated with the title, regardless of education or oversight.

The change in our current title legislation to practice legislation **does not prohibit healthy competition** or carve a niche only for Landscape Architects. It does, however, provide an important distinction which has been shown in the other licensed states to allow an informed choice to the consumer. The ability of the consumer to make an informed choice has not been a profit reducer for landscapers in any of the other states with practice acts. Moreover, this proposed legislation allows Wisconsin Landscape Architects to participate on a level field with the other licensed professions, as well as those licensed as Landscape Architects in other states.

In my testimony I will introduce the general bill history, as well as a brief outline of the topics to be covered by my professional colleagues in greater detail. You will notice that the professional Landscape Architects who present their areas of expertise represent **a broad spectrum of practice areas**. While our profession is diverse in specific area of application, it is **unified in its focus**: the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. We are liable and do willingly accept the responsibility for our professional actions that we have been educated, mentored, and tested to produce, and accept **the oversight provided by the state and the industry**. Our movement to a license from a

certificate elevates all the related industries in the eyes of an informed consumer.

Most Landscape Architectural firms in Wisconsin are **small businesses.** There are currently ninety (90) firms, two thirds of which have between one and four employees. Nearly all the ninety firms have less than forty- nine employees. In Wisconsin we currently have 565 certificates to practice our profession, of which 314 are Wisconsin residents. There are 15,000 Landscape Architects in the United States currently. Our profession has been targeted by the U.S. Labor Bureau as growing by sixteen percent over the next eight years. This puts incredible pressure on the industry to provide educated, professionally responsible practitioners of the profession of Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin. As an educator at the University I have tracked my **past students** as they move through their professional careers. Our students are among the most highly sought on the job market every year since I have been tracking them (see attached letter to the Deans at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, from an independent career coordinator, ex faculty at Purdue). The overwhelming trend has been to seek and find employment outside the state of Wisconsin. This trend has been evident in the past fourteen years that I have been teaching and following our students. We are sending most of our best and brightest to other states to gain licensure to practice and improve the human condition. Informal interviews and conversations with past graduates indicate that one strong reason for moving away has been the lack of licensure in our state. The difference in professional regard, both among professions and with the public has been typical in our past students comments about the reasons to leave their home state to practice the profession. The change from certificate to license will send a clear message to the students that, in Wisconsin, our profession is as highly regarded as a profession as are Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors.

Our bill is currently **endorsed** by organizations recognized for their input in the well being of the citizens of our state. These supporters include the **State Joint Board of Technical Registration, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Wisconsin Green Building Alliance, and the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects**. Professional practitioners in other licensed professions have indicated their support and willingness to provide like testimony.

In conclusion, I thank you for the opportunity to present my perspectives on the need for this legislation. **AB 667 places the practice of Landscape Architecture on a level field with the profession in forty one other states, as well as with the other licensed professions in Wisconsin.** This bill has been carefully crafted and amended to its current form so as to provide no taking from the industry as it now exists. Those who currently are in the businesses of landscaping and landscape design will likely see an increase in profit as evidenced in the other forty one states with practice acts in place. The profession of Landscape Architecture is currently doing the work of a licensed

profession without the needed regard accorded it by a valid license. It is time to approve the licensure of Landscape Architects in Wisconsin.

DONALD J. MOLNAR FASLA
THE DRUMLIN GROUP

Professional Searches for Landscape Architects

P.O.Box 220 Seymour, Illinois 61875
217-8403206 cell [217-5864310 ph+fx]
gdrumlin@yahoo.com

Associate Dean Frank W. Kooistra
[kooistra@cals.wisc.edu]

November 19, 2007

Ref: *UW Landscape Architecture Program and Professor Shawn Kelly*

Dear Dean Kooistra:

Please accept my compliments on the remarkable improvement in your Landscape Architecture program and the graduates from the program. I've been a landscape architect for 47 years, 20 as a campus planner/LA for the University of Illinois, then 20 more as professor and chair of the LA program at Purdue University. I retired from teaching 7 years ago and have since become a recruiter for landscape architects for offices all over the US. I now work at finding LA talent across the country. And I'm seeing a lot of talent coming from your school.

In the last three years, at each of the national conventions of the American Society of Landscape Architects, I have met and interviewed more students from the University of Wisconsin than any other school, no matter where the meeting has been held. In itself, this is a very important accomplishment since professionals from every state are there searching for talent and introducing their practices to the broadest possible spectrum of candidates during the formal interview sessions which continue through the entire meeting. But what has impressed me more is the level of quality in the work the UW students present. They have a good balance in their work. The inventory and analysis of information, the program and conceptual design for each project, and the drawings demonstrating how the project would be built in detail; all the parts are there and are presented very well. The students know and understand what they've done and are very good at explaining their work. All the professional skills are in place and capably demonstrated.

I constantly look at work from students and graduates of schools in all parts of the country and I necessarily develop my own sense of rankings of the talent produced. Offices ask me about this kind of appraisal. In past years, I did not give Wisconsin a very high ranking because the balance I mentioned was not evident. The students were not ready to competently enter the professional world when they graduated. But that's changed.

In Salt Lake City three years ago I asked these impressive students who or what class was responsible for the work I was seeing. The fingers all pointed to Shawn Kelly. I took time out to find him and get acquainted. I was very impressed and continue to see his positive impact on the program's improvement. His students this year include some that are at the top of the curve across the nation. I told Shawn this and embarrassed him by asking if I could write this note. As a former faculty leader and also employer of many LA's, I see Shawn as a real prize. His professional career background brings a level of reality into the classroom which is centrally valuable. His devotion to the kids is clear by their regard for him. Also, his fortitude in getting his gang to these conventions, no matter where they are held and no matter what travel hassles are necessary, deserves a medal (spoken from experience).

Define. Enhance. Sustain.

February 19, 2008

David R. Schreiber, LA #154
President and COO
Schreiber Anderson Associates, Inc.
717 John Nolen Drive
Madison, WI 53713

Landscape Architecture
Urban Design
Community Planning
Land Planning
Civil Engineering

Re: Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry Public Hearing on AB 667, February 20, 2008.

Dear Representatives Honadel, Murtha, Gottlieb, Nelson, Nass, Sheridan, Wieckert, Van Akkeren and Newcomer:

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of AB 667.

I have been in private practice as a landscape architect, continuously in the State of Wisconsin since my graduation from the University of Wisconsin - Madison Landscape Architecture program in 1972. I have perhaps the longest running private practice landscape architecture firm in the state and I employ a diverse group of 26 professionals including Landscape Architects, Engineers and Planners. Over my years of practice I have worked primarily for municipal governments and institutions, and completed hundreds of master plans and construction documents for parks, trails, streetscapes, residential and commercial site plans, public plazas, parking areas, play grounds, recreation fields and landscapes. My competition for this work is quite often other registered professionals - architects and engineers. However, I am successful in obtaining work because I have seen the public come to appreciate (and demand) the unique eye by virtue of training through which the landscape architect sees the world, appreciates aesthetics and is environmentally conscious.

Landscape architects are specifically trained in the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of land and water resources. Landscape Architects are trained to work on site planning, roadway design, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, wetland construction and mitigation, park and trail systems, erosion control, and storm water management.

Currently, individuals in Wisconsin cannot use the title of landscape architect unless they are a licensed landscape architect. Any individual can perform the duties of a landscape architect, but can not use the title of a landscape architect. The current situation does not assure the buying public or municipality that their expectations for landscape architecture are being met when they ask that a landscape architect be involved as so often occurs on public solicitations for design work.

Forty-one other states require that an individual must be a licensed landscape architect in order to perform those duties defined as landscape architecture. I experience this directly, when I perform work in states adjoining Wisconsin. Landscape architecture work as defined by AB 667 requires specialized skills that affect the public health, safety, and welfare in Wisconsin.

Schreiber/Anderson Associates, Inc.
717 John Nolen Drive
Madison, WI 53713
T 608.255.0800
F 608.255.7750
www.saa-madison.com

The proposed bill ensures that only individuals who have completed the required education, training, and examination are able to perform the specialized skills of a landscape architect that include grading, drainage, and site design.

A practice act such as AB 667 outlines a core group of services that licensed landscape architects are qualified to provide by virtue of their education, experience, and examination. The nature of the duties regulated under AB 667 will not adversely affect the landscape design, landscape construction or related industries. Passage of AB 667 will ensure that work directly impacting the public health, safety, and welfare is performed only by individuals who have demonstrated their qualifications to the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Schreiber, President and COO
Schreiber Anderson Associates

Schreiber/Anderson Associates, Inc.
717 John Nolen Drive
Madison, WI 53713
T 608.255.0800
F 608.255.7750
www.saa-madison.com

Patrick Hannon
Landscape Designer
Schreiber Anderson Associates, Inc.
717 John Nolen Drive
Madison WI 53713

Re: Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry Public Hearing on AB 667, February 20, 2008.

To: Representatives Honadel, Murtha, Gottlieb, Nelson, Nass, Sheridan, Wieckert, Van Akkeren and Newcomer

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of AB 667. Landscape architecture includes the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of land and water resources. Landscape Architects are trained to work on site planning, roadway design, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, wetland construction and mitigation, park and trail systems, erosion control, and stormwater management.

Currently, individuals in Wisconsin cannot use the title of landscape architect unless they are a certified landscape architect. Any individual can perform the duties of a landscape architect, but can not use the title of a landscape architect.

Forty-one other states require that an individual must be a licensed landscape architect in order to perform those duties defined as landscape architecture. Landscape architecture work as defined by AB 667 requires specialized skills that affect the public health, safety, and welfare in Wisconsin. The proposed bill ensures that only individuals who have completed the required education, training, and examination are able to perform the specialized skills of a landscape architect that include grading, drainage, and site design.

A practice act such as AB 667 outlines a core group of services that licensed landscape architects are qualified to provide by virtue of their education, experience, and examination. The nature of the duties regulated under AB 667 will not adversely affect the landscape design, landscape construction or related industries. Passage of AB 667 will ensure that work directly impacting the public health, safety, and welfare is performed only by individuals who have demonstrated their qualifications to the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hannon

Gil Jevne, ASLA
Wisconsin License #192-014 (Landscape Architect)
Schreiber Anderson Associates, Inc.
717 John Nolen Drive
Madison, WI 53713

Re: Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry Public Hearing on AB 667, February 20, 2008.

To: Representatives Risser, Berceau, Honadel, Murtha, Gottlieb, Nelson, Nass, Sheridan, Wieckert, Van Akkeren and Newcomer

As a practicing landscape architect for the past 19 years, I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of AB 667. Landscape architecture includes the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of land and water resources. Landscape Architects are trained to work on site planning, roadway design, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, wetland construction and mitigation, park and trail systems, erosion control, and stormwater management.

Currently, individuals in Wisconsin cannot use the title of landscape architect unless they are a certified landscape architect. Any individual can perform the duties of a landscape architect, but can not use the title of a landscape architect.

Forty-one other states require that an individual must be a licensed landscape architect in order to perform those duties defined as landscape architecture. Landscape architecture work as defined by AB 667 requires specialized skills that affect the public health, safety, and welfare in Wisconsin. The proposed bill ensures that only individuals who have completed the required education, training, and examination are able to perform the specialized skills of a landscape architect that include grading, drainage, and site design.

A practice act such as AB 667 outlines a core group of services that licensed landscape architects are qualified to provide by virtue of our education, experience, and examination. The nature of the duties regulated under AB 667 will not adversely affect the landscape design, landscape construction or related industries. Passage of AB 667 will ensure that work directly impacting the public health, safety, and welfare is performed only by individuals who have demonstrated their qualifications to the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gil H. Jevne, ASLA
Project Manager
Schreiber/Anderson Associates, Inc.

Sarah Gaskell, Community Planner
Schreiber Anderson Associates, Inc.
717 John Nolen Drive
Madison WI 53713

Re: Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry Public Hearing on AB 667, February 20, 2008.

To: Representatives Honadel, Murtha, Gottlieb, Nelson, Nass, Sheridan, Wieckert, Van Akkeren, Newcomer and Pocan

After pursuing a degree in Horticulture I came to realize I desired a more hands-on career – one where I might see the impact of my education and design sensibilities. As a result, I moved to Wisconsin in 1997 and pursued a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the UW – Madison, and I have been in Madison ever since. I feel very strongly about my profession and do my best on a daily basis to uphold the principles of high-quality landscape architecture. As such, I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of AB 667.

Landscape architecture includes the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of land and water resources. Landscape Architects are trained to work on site planning, roadway design, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, wetland construction and mitigation, park and trail systems, erosion control, and stormwater management.

Currently, individuals in Wisconsin cannot use the title of landscape architect unless they are a certified landscape architect. Any individual can perform the duties of a landscape architect, but can not use the title of a landscape architect.

Forty-one other states require that an individual must be a licensed landscape architect in order to perform those duties defined as landscape architecture. Landscape architecture work as defined by AB 667 requires specialized skills that affect the public health, safety, and welfare in Wisconsin. The proposed bill ensures that only individuals who have completed the required education, training, and examination are able to perform the specialized skills of a landscape architect that include grading, drainage, and site design. It is time that the state of Wisconsin becomes part of an accepted standard for the safety and welfare of its citizens.

A practice act such as AB 667 outlines a core group of services that licensed landscape architects are qualified to provide by virtue of their education, experience, and examination. **The nature of the duties regulated under AB 667 will not adversely affect the landscape design, landscape construction or related industries.** Passage of AB 667 will ensure that work directly impacting the public health, safety, and welfare is performed only by individuals who have demonstrated their qualifications to the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

SGaskell

Sarah Gaskell, ASLA

759 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 304
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 224-WGBA
Fax: (414) 224-1458
www.wgba.org

February 18, 2008

Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry
State of Wisconsin

Honorable Committee Members,

The Wisconsin Green Building Alliance (WGBA) is a nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to facilitate and promote the development and use of ecologically sustainable materials and practices within Wisconsin's built environment.

WGBA has a membership of more than 300 architects, engineers, designers, landscape architects, materials suppliers, educators and others interested in health, safety and welfare issues as they pertain to the environment and construction.

This letter is in support of the current upgrade efforts of the Landscape Architects to go from a title to practice act. ***WGBA*** feels that landscape architects serve a vital role in the conservation of our natural resources and in the design of the built environment and should, therefore, be recognized as qualified professionals, subject similar to licensing.

Sincerely,

Constance A. Lindholm
Executive Director

WGBA BOARD
Clark Brenner, Arnold & O'Sheridan
Mike Hoyng, C.G. Schmidt, Inc.
Tate Walker, Energy Center of Wisconsin
Mark Ernst, Engberg Anderson
Josh Arnold, 360GREEN, Inc.
d'Andre Willis, HGA
Tom Cox, Durrant, LLC
Cindy Finstad, Mortenson
Ken Pientka, Planning Design Build
Juli Kaufmann, Pragmatic Construction
Robert Ruvin, Ruvin Development
Greg Thomson, UW-Milwaukee
David Ciepluch, We Energies

EXEC. DIRECTOR
Constance Lindholm

GREEN CHAMPION
Focus on Energy
We Energies

BENEFACTORS
Energy Center of Wisconsin

SPONSORS
Beyer Construction
BPI-Blueprints, Inc.
Boldt Construction
C. G. Schmidt, Inc.
Durrant
Engberg Anderson
Eppstein Uhen Architects
The Farnsworth Group
Findorff
Flad & Associates
Gilbane Building Co.
HGA
Hoffman, LLC
The Jansen Group
J.P. Cullen & Sons, Inc.
Liberty Property Trust
Madison Gas & Electric
Miron Construction
Mortenson Construction
PLANNING Design Build
Plunkett Raysich Architects
Tri-North Builders
VerHalen, Inc.

printed on recycled paper

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON AB 667, 20 February 2008

Heather McGuire, ASLA, LEED-AP
Yaggy Colby Associates
PO Box 180500
Delafield, WI 53018

Voting Address:
1214 Lisbon St
Watertown, WI 53098
(920) 206-8511
heatherm@yaggy.com

Clear Presentation of your postion:

I support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin. I urge you to support this effort by a profession dedicated to preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare. Our current title act is an important first step to professional recognition, which needs to be followed by the practice act in Wisconsin.

We are held to the same standards as Licensed Engineers, Surveyors, and architects and would like the practice license to reinforce this requirement.

Please support this effort to increase the safety and welfare of all Wisconsin residents with this bill.

Thank you,
Heather McGuire, ASLA, LEED-AP

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON AB 667, 20 February 2008

Sarah Binkowski, ASLA
Yaggy Colby Associates
PO Box 180500
Delafield, WI 53018

Voting Address:
4123 N. Woodburn St.
Shorewood, WI 53211
sjbinkow@yahoo.com

I support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin. I urge you to support this effort by a profession dedicated to preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare. Our current title act is an important first step to professional recognition, which needs to be followed by the practice act in Wisconsin.

Like the forty-one other states that have enacted such legislation, this is Wisconsin's opportunity to ensure that licensed professionals are responsible for the landscape architectural spaces that they design. This is not unlike the existing standards for Engineers, Architects, and Surveyors.

Also, as a lifelong Wisconsin resident and product of the UW school system, I urge you to solidify this practice act into law. I earned my BSLA from UW-Madison in 2002 and have watched many of my classmates leave the state to pursue careers where licensure defines a landscape architect's profession. With constant rhetoric about "brain-drain" regarding UW graduates, it is time for the State to take this step to both protect the welfare of the public and regulate a profession for the experienced graduates of our school system.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter that undoubtedly serves the public interest.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON AB 667, 20 February 2008

Aaron Knoploh, ASLA
Yaggy Colby Associates
PO Box 180500
Delafield, WI 53018

Voting Address:
234 Parador Place
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
(608)-839-8345
aaronk@yaggy.com

I support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin. I urge you to support this effort by a profession dedicated to the preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare. Our current title act is an important first step to professional recognition, which needs to be followed by the practice act in Wisconsin.

I feel the Practice Act establishes a much needed regard for the profession of Landscape Architecture. In a profession that continually impacts public health and safety, the general public can only benefit by establishing accountability for that work. I feel passage of this bill will accomplish this, as well as define a level of professional service that recognizes the high standards required of the individuals who practice landscape architecture.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider my thoughts, and the thoughts of my peers regarding this important issue.

Yours truly,

Aaron Knoploh, ASLA
Minnesota license no. 42511
Wisconsin certificate no. 485-014

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON AB 667, 20 February 2008

Christa Wollenzien, ASLA
Yaggy Colby Associates
PO Box 180500
Delafield, WI 53018

Voting Address:
1534 Butler Drive
Waukesha, WI 53186
(262)-896-1072
Christaw@yaggy.com

I support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin. I urge you to support this effort by a profession dedicated to preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare. Our current title act is an important first step, but needs to be followed by the practice act in Wisconsin. This legislation will establish fair competition, establish a measure of competence, and most importantly provide a level of confidence in regard to the public health, safety, and welfare.

Establishing Fair Competition
I stand in a unique position working for a multidisciplinary firm with locations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Yaggy Colby Associates has engineers, architects, landscape architects, and land surveyors. We all work together under one roof to produce the highest quality of work in regards to public health, safety and welfare. The landscape architects in the Minnesota and Iowa branches have the capacity to perform and certify work that the landscape architects in Wisconsin could not because they only have a certificate. Supporting the practice act will put us on the same playing field as these other states that have practice acts thereby establishing fair competition. This raises Wisconsin's potential to draw work from other states and produce more jobs in the professional sector.

Measure of Competence
Currently architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects are held to the same standard of qualifications; education, internships, testing, and continuing education. Architects, engineers, and land surveyors are granted a license to practice, in which they are held liable for their actions. Landscape architects are granted a certificate of designation to use the title "landscape architect", but anyone may perform the duties of a landscape architect. No one is held liable for their actions. Supporting the change to practice act will put landscape architects on equal footing with these allied professionals. We have

been trained, mentored, tested, and continue to educate ourselves to the same extent as these other professionals and are willing to be held responsible for our actions.

Public health, safety, and welfare

The most important reason to support the practice act is for public health, safety, and welfare: the reason we have the Wisconsin Department of Registration and Licensing. These are the reasons I sought my Masters in landscape architecture. The reason I mentored under other professional landscape architects, the reason I endured the registration exam, and consider myself a professional today. We have all been trained to think of the public first in our professional careers and without the practice act it makes our professional journey futile, but even worse it prevents the government from doing it's job.

"*The Department of Regulation and Licensing and related professional boards* ***protect the citizens of Wisconsin*** *by ensuring the safe and competent practice of licensed professionals.*"

In Conclusion please support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin. This bill is not about a taking or an economic gain by landscape architects. When the bill is read in it's entirety it clearly does not take choices away from the consumer, but protects them. It's about a professional code of ethics in pursing the public health, safety and welfare.

Sincerely,

Christa Wollenzien, ASLA
Wisconsin #527

Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry

Public Hearing on AB 667, February 20, 2008

Zachary Vieth,
1120 Bowen Ct.
Madison, WI 53715

I support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin.

As a lifelong Wisconsin resident, I urge your support of bill AB667. I have a unique perspective of this matter because I am currently a student at UW-Madison. I was born and raised in the city of Milwaukee, where I was a proud product of the Milwaukee Public Schools. An upbringing there taught me a **respect and moral obligation for place in which I live.** At the University of Wisconsin Madison, I found a profession that can ensure I leave a positive mark on my community and state. That profession is Landscape Architecture.

I am troubled by the disconnect that exists between Wisconsin's recognition of the importance of public health, safety and welfare, and their full support of it. In Wisconsin, professions like architecture and engineering are licensed by the state. In comparison, the practice of landscape architecture is loosely regulated by a title act. Forty one (41) other states closely regulate the practice of landscape architecture by requiring licensure in the same way Wisconsin requires licensure for certain professions. These professions impact the health, safety and welfare of our state, some of which include Nursing, Education, Engineering and Architecture.

Like other professions, Landscape Architecture is represented by a rigorous course of study, outlined by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). Other Wisconsin schools provide graduates with some of the components included in the training of a Landscape Architect, for example course work in horticulture, landscaping and botany. These programs do not however, represent the breadth and depth of Landscape Architecture. The profession of Landscape Architecture is held to a standard that is higher than that of para-professionals. That level of accountability is crucial to public health, safety and welfare.

Support for this bill will not harm the future activity of my peers in other design programs throughout the state. The nature of their practice and scope of their work is not within that of licensure requirements of the proposed act. Their education gives them the full ability to execute landscape design.

The process toward licensure in Wisconsin (and our current title act) involves a three step process:

I. A degree in landscape architecture from an accredited university. These programs are accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). It is through the accreditation process that students' performance and the ability of the program to meet standards of competency and knowledge is assessed. UW-Madison is the only such program of forty four (44) nationwide that exists in the state of Wisconsin.

II. Apprenticeship with a licensed landscape architect ensures developing professionals gain experience and local knowledge necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public.

III. Completion of the Landscape Architectural Registration Examination (LARE) is required. This test is maintained by CLARB.

As students we select this path expecting licensure to ensure that design in our built environment is held accountable to a set of standards.

Upon graduation, one consideration for my classmates and me is a professional climate that is supported by state licensure. As of late, many of my peers have taken jobs outside of Wisconsin in an effort, among other things, to seek a state that supports a standard of practice through licensure.

There are three (3) essential reasons licensure matters to the developing professional:

I. The federal government requires valid licensure for their projects. In addition other public and private groups hold that same standard for design. Currently, Wisconsin Landscape Architects cannot participate in those projects; further sending revenue and employment to out of state entities.

II. Landscape Architecture licensure would provide Wisconsin consumers with the ability to more appropriately select from a variety of professions regulated and held accountable for their work. Licensure, by increasing the ability for consumers to select professional services, provides the public an advantage in selecting design services that meet their technical requirements.

III. Recent legislation has recognized the importance of a standard of professional practice and has provided that with Continuing Education Credits / Units for Architects, Engineers and Landscape Architects. Yet licensure, while offered for Architects and Engineers is not provided for Landscape Architects. This provides a loophole through which unqualified practitioners can legally practice landscape architecture.

In summary, I thank you for your thought and consideration of this matter. You now have an opportunity to **establish a standard of practice;** similar to other professions and Landscape Architecture in forty one (41) other states. **As a budding professional, it is through our rigorous training and constant review** by third party organizations that we develop the professional competencies to practice landscape architecture. Take this opportunity to ensure competent professionals look after the health, safety and welfare of our residents with the upgrade of the Landscape Architecture title act to practice act.

Regards,

Zachary Vieth
Undergraduate ALA Landscape Architecture
Bachelors of Science Candidate
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry
Public Hearing on **AB 667**, February 20, 2007

William C. Wollenzien, P.E.
Yaggy Colby Associates
PO Box 180500
Delafield, WI 53018

Voting Address
1534 Butler Dr.
Waukesha, WI 53186

I **support** the Assembly Bill denoted **AB 667, A Practice Act for Landscape Architecture.**

This bill is necessary for this state to promote the safety, health and welfare of Wisconsin society by making landscape architects liable for their designs. In so doing, the State would indicate a clear encouragement of education and promote the dignity of this field allowing the state to attract and retain its professionals.

Safety, health and welfare of society are paramount. Tenets of the profession of Landscape Architecture include design of areas that engineers, surveyors and architects require to complete their tasks. Landscape Architects are skilled in planning and design for sites that can include ponds, roads, pedestrian ways, wetland and floodplain protection areas, zoning issues and regional development plans. Appropriate locations must be chosen, but care must be taken to provide them in areas that are both aesthetic and safe for citizens and the environment. Landscape architects should be responsible for their designs, and the state should see to it that qualified individuals perform those duties.

As a benefit, this bill will promote education. An expert level of knowledge is requisite for a Landscape Architect. Required education is within everyone's grasp. Today's aspiring professional has unprecedented access to education within and beyond our borders. The final requirement is a little hard work and a commitment to the journey. Additionally, with the recent passage of the Continuing Education bill, professionals obtaining a license will be required by the State to maintain their education, resulting in a level of knowledge current with the times.

Passage of this bill will place Landscape Architects in confidence within society, a confidence borne by the State's ability to enforce the principles as well as revoke the privileges of licensure. Landscape Architects will share this benefit of confidence with Architects, Engineers and Surveyors thereby ending the alienation that has perpetuated thus far amongst them. This societal confidence and esteem amongst peers will bring dignity to the profession.

Landscape architects, who have amassed the necessary experience, and whose knowledge has been measured by accredited Universities and nationally recognized testing, and who

will be responsible for continuing education standards, are well prepared to safeguard the states populace. This bill will invoke greater innovation and poise by improving recognition of, and generating confidence in, Landscape architects, thereby attracting and retaining businesses and skilled individuals. Please pass this bill and further define and dignify Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

William C. Wollenzien, P.E. (#39059)

Breezy Hill Nursery Inc.

7530 288th AVENUE
SALEM, WISCONSIN 53168
P.O. Box 191
OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066
(262) 537-2111
(877) 537-2111
FAX (262) 537-3434
www.breezyhillnursery.com
email: contact@breezyhillnursery.com

2-20-08

Representatives,

I am writing in response to the LA Practice Assembly Bill 667 that is receiving a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. I am in definite opposition to this bill as I believe it will have a negative effect on many companies within our industry.

I own an organization that has been serving the general public for nearly 30 years and has provided a product that consistently exceeds industry standards. We have done this successfully within all scopes of our industry without having a licensed landscape architect consistently on staff. I do agree that our industry needs a standard to follow, but by simply granting this to a group of people that have passed an exam is not the correct way to achieve this standard. You cannot disregard an organization with 30 years of experience as not being an expert within the industry. There are many other organizations out there that are in a similar situation, and this would be a great discredit to all parties involved.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and understanding. It is important to understand that this Bill, if passed, would have a negative effect on many companies with in the green industry. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (262) 537-2111. Thank you again.

Regards,

Jerry Epping, President
Breezy Hill Nursery, Inc.

Breezy Hill Nursery Inc.

7530 288th AVENUE
SALEM, WISCONSIN 53168
P.O. Box 191
OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066
(262) 537-2111
(877) 537-2111
FAX (262) 537-3434
www.breezyhillnursery.com
email: contact@breezyhillnursery.com

2-20-08

Representatives,

I am writing in response to the LA Practice Assembly Bill 667 that is receiving a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. I am in definite opposition to this bill as I believe it will have a negative effect on many companies within our industry.

I currently work for an organization that has been serving the general public for nearly 30 years and has provided a product that consistently exceeds industry standards. We have done this successfully within all scopes of our industry without having a licensed landscape architect consistently on staff. I do agree that our industry needs a standard to follow, but by simply granting this to a group of people that have passed an exam is not the correct way to achieve this standard. You cannot disregard an organization with 30 years of experience as not being an expert within the industry. There are many other organizations out there that are in a similar situation, and this would be a great discredit to all parties involved.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and understanding. It is important to understand that this Bill, if passed, would have a negative effect on many companies with in the green industry. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (262) 537-2111. Thank you again.

Regards,

Adam Sandberg
Breezy Hill Nursery, Inc.

Breezy Hill Nursery Inc.

7530 288th AVENUE
SALEM, WISCONSIN 53168
P.O. Box 191
OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066
(262) 537-2111
(877) 537-2111
FAX (262) 537-3434
www.breezyhillnursery.com
email: contact@breezyhillnursery.com

2-20-08

Representatives,

I am writing in response to the LA Practice Assembly Bill 667 that is receiving a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. I am in definite opposition to this bill as I believe it will have a negative effect on many companies within our industry.

I currently work for an organization that has been serving the general public for nearly 30 years and has provided a product that consistently exceeds industry standards. We have done this successfully within all scopes of our industry without having a licensed landscape architect consistently on staff. I do agree that our industry needs a standard to follow, but by simply granting this to a group of people that have passed an exam is not the correct way to achieve this standard. You cannot disregard an organization with 30 years of experience as not being an expert within the industry. There are many other organizations out there that are in a similar situation, and this would be a great discredit to all parties involved.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and understanding. It is important to understand that this Bill, if passed, would have a negative effect on many companies with in the green industry. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (262) 537-2111. Thank you again.

Regards,

Chris James
Breezy Hill Nursery, Inc.

Breezy Hill Nursery Inc.

7530 288th AVENUE
SALEM, WISCONSIN 53168
P.O. Box 191
OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066
(262) 537-2111
(877) 537-2111
FAX (262) 537-3434
www.breezyhillnursery.com
email: contact@breezyhillnursery.com

2-20-08

Representatives,

I am writing in response to the LA Practice Assembly Bill 667 that is receiving a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. I am in definite opposition to this bill as I believe it will have a negative effect on many companies within our industry.

I currently work for an organization that has been serving the general public for nearly 30 years and has provided a product that consistently exceeds industry standards. We have done this successfully within all scopes of our industry without having a licensed landscape architect consistently on staff. I do agree that our industry needs a standard to follow, but by simply granting this to a group of people that have passed an exam is not the correct way to achieve this standard. You cannot disregard an organization with 30 years of experience as not being an expert within the industry. There are many other organizations out there that are in a similar situation, and this would be a great discredit to all parties involved.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and understanding. It is important to understand that this Bill, if passed, would have a negative effect on many companies with in the green industry. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (262) 537-2111. Thank you again.

Regards,

Kathy Feucht
Breezy Hill Nursery, Inc.

Breezy Hill Nursery Inc.

7530 288th AVENUE
SALEM, WISCONSIN 53168
P.O. Box 191
OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066
(262) 537-2111
(877) 537-2111
FAX (262) 537-3434
www.breezyhillnursery.com
email: contact@breezyhillnursery.com

2-20-08

Representatives,

I am writing in response to the LA Practice Assembly Bill 667 that is receiving a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. I am in definite opposition to this bill as I believe it will have a negative effect on many companies within our industry.

I currently work for an organization that has been serving the general public for nearly 30 years and has provided a product that consistently exceeds industry standards. We have done this successfully within all scopes of our industry without having a licensed landscape architect consistently on staff. I do agree that our industry needs a standard to follow, but by simply granting this to a group of people that have passed an exam is not the correct way to achieve this standard. You cannot disregard an organization with 30 years of experience as not being an expert within the industry. There are many other organizations out there that are in a similar situation, and this would be a great discredit to all parties involved.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and understanding. It is important to understand that this Bill, if passed, would have a negative effect on many companies with in the green industry. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (262) 537-2111. Thank you again.

Regards,

Michael Schierl
Breezy Hill Nursery, Inc.

Breezy Hill Nursery Inc.

7530 288th AVENUE
SALEM, WISCONSIN 53168
P.O. Box 191
OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066
(262) 537-2111
(877) 537-2111
FAX (262) 537-3434
www.breezyhillnursery.com
email: contact@breezyhillnursery.com

2-20-08

Representatives,

I am writing in response to the LA Practice Assembly Bill 667 that is receiving a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. I am in definite opposition to this bill as I believe it will have a negative effect on many companies within our industry.

I currently work for an organization that has been serving the general public for nearly 30 years and has provided a product that consistently exceeds industry standards. We have done this successfully within all scopes of our industry without having a licensed landscape architect consistently on staff. I do agree that our industry needs a standard to follow, but by simply granting this to a group of people that have passed an exam is not the correct way to achieve this standard. You cannot disregard an organization with 30 years of experience as not being an expert within the industry. There are many other organizations out there that are in a similar situation, and this would be a great discredit to all parties involved.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and understanding. It is important to understand that this Bill, if passed, would have a negative effect on many companies with in the green industry. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (262) 537-2111. Thank you again.

Regards,

Mike Schenning
Breezy Hill Nursery, Inc.

Breezy Hill Nursery Inc.

7530 288th AVENUE
SALEM, WISCONSIN 53168
P.O. Box 191
OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066
(262) 537-2111
(877) 537-2111
FAX (262) 537-3434
www.breezyhillnursery.com
email: contact@breezyhillnursery.com

2-20-08

Representatives,

I am writing in response to the LA Practice Assembly Bill 667 that is receiving a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. I am in definite opposition to this bill as I believe it will have a negative effect on many companies within our industry.

I currently work for an organization that has been serving the general public for nearly 30 years and has provided a product that consistently exceeds industry standards. We have done this successfully within all scopes of our industry without having a licensed landscape architect consistently on staff. I do agree that our industry needs a standard to follow, but by simply granting this to a group of people that have passed an exam is not the correct way to achieve this standard. You cannot disregard an organization with 30 years of experience as not being an expert within the industry. There are many other organizations out there that are in a similar situation, and this would be a great discredit to all parties involved.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and understanding. It is important to understand that this Bill, if passed, would have a negative effect on many companies with in the green industry. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (262) 537-2111. Thank you again.

Regards,

Steve Peters
Breezy Hill Nursery, Inc.

February 20, 2008

Chairman Honadel and the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Labor & Industry,

I am here today to testify my opposition to LRB 1697/7 [AB 667].

My landscape contracting business is located in Muskego. Our annual gross sales are 2 million dollars and I employ 20 people. I currently sit on the state board of the Wisconsin Landscape Contractor's Association, and I was the president of the Milwaukee Chapter of the same association in 2003 and 2004. I have been studying this issue as a business owner and association volunteer for over 2 years.

I oppose the bill as it is introduced because it would put my company at a competitive disadvantage. Since I do not employ a landscape architect, I would not be eligible for municipal projects in my very own City of Muskego. I am an active member of my community, and have worked often with and for the City on landscape improvements to the Veteran's Park, the Festival grounds and the Historic Settlement Grounds. If this bill becomes law, my company will no longer be able to design these projects. In fact, the bill characterizes the type of work that my company has done as potentially dangerous to the public's health, safety and welfare. I know of not a single report of landscape work anywhere in our state that has been a danger to public health.

This bill would also increase property taxes by requiring my own City of Muskego to have all landscape projects designed by a landscape architect, regardless of the scope or complexity. I have volunteered my time to serve on the capital budget committee in Muskego, working hard to be fiscally responsible. It is hard enough to control a budget without needless legislation that increases red tape. This bill adds an unnecessary and expensive requirement to all municipal and state projects.

Another reason I oppose this bill is that it devalues the Wisconsin Technical Colleges professional landscape design curriculums. I am a past member of the advisory committee at Milwaukee Area Technical College's Horticulture Department. I would like to note that in order for a landscape design student to graduate with an associate's degree from MATC, that student would need a minimum of 4 semesters course work related to plants. A landscape architecture student graduating with a bachelor's degree from University of Wisconsin needs only 1 semester of course work in plants. To discredit landscape designers, including those with years of professional experience, in favor of landscape architects who graduate with extremely limited plant knowledge is completely inappropriate. This bill does just that.

In conclusion, I oppose [AB 667] because is puts landscape contractors who do not employ landscape architects at a competitive disadvantage. The bill also would raise property taxes. And finally, the bill discredits professional landscape designers.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Heather Schuster

TERRA FIRMA

LANDSCAPE, INCORPORATED
DESIGN, BUILD, MANAGE

S66 W14427
JANESVILLE ROAD
MUSKEGO, WI 53150
(414) 422-9440
fax 422-9450

Wisconsin Green Industry Federation

February 20, 2008

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry:

The Wisconsin Green Industry Federation (WGIF) opposes AB 667 relating to landscape architecture.

This bill is being forwarded on the erroneous premise that is will somehow improve the health, welfare and safety of the public. This is simply a professional organization within our industry wanting additional benefits for their members by excluding educated, knowledgeable, qualified, and experienced landscape professionals and businesses from municipal projects…for a start. This effort has caused serious conflict and confusion within the industry and in the workplace. Wisconsin does not need this legislation, and our member businesses do not want it.

Please understand that Federation members are the industry trade associations representing businesses engaged in all facets of the landscape industry, and not individuals of a single profession. A number of our member businesses are owned and operated by landscape architects or they employ landscape architects, and they oppose this bill.

WGIF opposes this bill for the following reasons:

1) The bill excludes landscape, irrigation, nursery and landscape design professionals from any and all municipal and state projects.

2) The bill erroneously characterizes landscape site analysis and design by landscape, nursery professionals and professional landscape designers as potentially dangerous to the public's health safety and welfare. When asked to provide supporting evidence of these dangerous occurrences, WIASLA could not provide even one. When I personally asked Mr. Jim Rabbitt, WDATCP's Administrator of Trade and Consumer Protection Division if improper landscape design has ever resulted in a complaint, he indicated that no such complaint exists, nor did any of his staff recall a complaint of such kind in the last 6 months.

3) The bill will needlessly increase the cost of public taxpayer projects regardless of scope or complexity, by requiring a landscape architect's stamp on every project.

4) Local units of governments, especially in smaller communities may not be able to hire local contractors who do not employ a landscape architect.

5) Many landscape professionals and businesses would be excluded for consideration for installation work because most bids are all inclusive for the project: design and installation. This could also lead to local municipalities imposing these unnecessary requirements to all commercial projects; again regardless of project size or scope.

6) The University of Wisconsin and our Wisconsin Technical Colleges offer students professional landscape design curriculums that would be devalued and unjustly discredited.

12342 W. Layton Ave.
Greenfield, WI 53228

414-529-4705

Wisconsin Green Industry Federation

October 4, 2007

Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WIASLA)
c/o Daniel Williams, President
P.O. Box 851
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Daniel and members of WIASLA,

I spoke with Jason Rostan, staff member in Representative Tom Lothian's office yesterday and indicated that WGIF would not oppose the bill, but should be in a position to actively support the proposed Landscape Practice Act LRB 1697/5, on the condition that Section 3. 443.01 para. (h) is removed. In doing so, landscape architects will gain a Practice Act in Wisconsin and will able to participate on design teams as licensed professionals, where now you have indicated your members often cannot compete with out of state landscape architects on design teams that require licensure for team membership.

State and Federal projects currently require a landscape architect's stamp, as do many major municipalities by local ordinance, and most other major, public projects. Requiring a stamp on every public project, regardless of size and complexity can add additional and unwarranted and unwanted financial burden on towns, villages, cities and counties at the taxpayer's expense.

The proposed requirement in 443.01 (h), for a stamped drawing for every public project, is objectionable to WGIF, our member associations and their business members. We will actively and strongly oppose any proposal that includes such a requirement. Including this requirement risks the opportunity of securing a Practice Act for landscape architects. We hope you will agree and support the deletion of this language from the bill.

WGIF would like to support WIASA landscape architects in securing a Practice Act, but not at the expense of business loss and opportunities for landscape contractors, nursery operators, and professional landscape designers. WGIF prefers to support our fellow green industry professionals rather than oppose this bill. It is our hope that your association will agree to this compromise, thereby gaining our active support and lobbying in favor of the bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wisconsin Green Industry Federation

Brian Swingle
Executive Director

12342 W. Layton Ave. Greenfield, WI 53228

ph. 414-529-4705
fax 414-529-4722

Testimony of Kurt Barth, speaking against AB667, February 20th,2008

Hello my name is Kurt Barth. I am the owner of Merrill Hills Landscape Co. and Pres. of the Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association. I oppose AB677 for a variety of reasons.

As a businessperson and employer, I oppose it as it seems to exclude highly qualified landscape designers from performing tasks which they have very capably done for as long as I have been a part of this industry- now some 31 years. Section 3 443.01 (h) is particularly upsetting as it seems to exclude planting plans from the definition of landscape architecture- as long as the health, safety, and welfare of the general public is not affected. It is upsetting on two counts. First, what plan could not be construed to affect the HSW of the GP, particularly in these litigious times? Any landscape plan for a home abutting a city street could potentially expose the general public to untold danger from unscrupulous and unqualified landscape designers. It essentially excludes designers from preparing such plans. Secondly, and more importantly, it implies that Landscape Architects are somehow more qualified to do planting plans. This is hardly the case. Checking the UW website, you'll find just two or three courses covering plant material as requirements for graduation as a landscape architect. While they certainly might elect to take more courses or acquire thus knowledge after graduation, they certainly are no more highly trained in this regard than those who study landscape design at MATC, Gateway, Fox Valley and other Wisconsin colleges. The requirements for these programs are in fact more robust with regard to plant knowledge than the LA program. These colleges have long been a source for reliable and professional landscape designers for our industry. Are you ready to tell all the administrators, instructors and most importantly the students who have studied at Wisconsin colleges and served their employers and the marketplace for all these years that they are suddenly only qualified to draw planting plans that do not potentially affect the HSW of the general public?

I oppose it as a citizen, concerned because it smells of the ever increasing over regulation of private life and enterprise. Some of this regulation is necessary and productive, but at other times it is frivolous, expensive, and wasteful. This bill falls into the latter group Each profession needs to make itself vital, important , and needed in the marketplace, based on what it can do that others cannot, without having their legitimacy created via legislation. Have the builders, developers, and homeowners approached you to eliminate a scourge of unqualified landscape designers from wreaking havoc on the landscape?

As a taxpayer I oppose it . I live in the Town of Eagle, where the tax rate ranks 102nd out of 103 taxing authorities in the SE Wisconsin area. We'd like to keep it that way. Should this bill be passed, the Town would be required to hire a landscape Architect for any project including landscaping of any kind. What if each project the Town undertook suddenly required any profession with a 4-year degree to have practitioner or licensed status? The additional expense and logistics of this would be expensive and cause gridlock for most public projects. The bill sets a precedent for any number of professions to clamor for similar status. Have the various political subdivisions approached you to

help them improve their projects by inclusion of a landscape architect on each and every one?

Lastly, I oppose it as a representative of my industry. Over the past two years we have attempted to work with the LA's to craft mutually acceptable legislation. We have failed. Despite over 40 states having similar laws, many of which, including our neighbor to the west Minnesota, are acceptable to nurseryman, landscape contractors, garden center operators and LAs alike, the Wisconsin group has chosen to reinvent the wheel and alienate its allied professions. Have the LAs done all they can to work together with its allied professions?

So, please ask yourself these questions. 1)Are you willing to delegitimize the landscape design programs at Wisconsin Technical colleges. 2) Have builders, developers, and homeowners come to you asking for relief ? 3) Will this put an unnecessary financial and logistical burden on smaller communities? And 4) Have the LAs really done all they can to work with their allied professions to craft a suitable compromise?

the bruce company
OF WISCONSIN INC.

February 20, 2008

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry:

RE: AB 667

The Bruce Company of Wisconsin, Inc. opposes AB 667 relating to landscape architecture.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns regarding AB 667. I am personally and professionally opposed to this legislation. As a young entrepreneur, I founded The Bruce Company and it has grown to be one of the largest landscape contractors in the State of Wisconsin, employing over 600 people during the peak season. If this legislation had been in place when I began it would have been much more difficult to succeed. If enacted it would limit the opportunity for entrepreneurs in the landscape contracting business.

AB 667 does not provide additional protections for consumers. In the case of a landscape contractor that does not stand behind their work, there are already multiple resources for clientele to seek restitution. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Better Business Bureau, as well as professional trade organizations, are presently available options for consumer complaints. Furthermore, the court system hears cases and legislation already exists to protect consumers from negligent contractors.

I appreciate your time and the opportunity to present my opposition to this legislation. I look forward to the committee's recommendation regarding AB 667.

Sincerely,

THE BRUCE COMPANY OF WISCONSIN, INC.

Leland C. Bruce
CEO & Chairman

2830 Parmenter Street P.O. Box 620330 Middleton, WI 53562-0330 608-836-7041 Fax 608-831-4236

the bruce company
OF WISCONSIN INC.

February 20, 2008

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry:

Re: AB 667

The Bruce Company of Wisconsin opposes AB 667 relating to landscape architecture.

As President and Chief Operating Officer of The Bruce Company of Wisconsin, Inc., I am expressing our opposition to AB667 as currently written. When this bill was first drafted, we consulted our attorney, William L. Fahey of Lathrop & Clark, LLP for his interpretation of the implications this bill would have on our industry. He had several concerns, the most significant include:

- As written, this bill has too much ambiguity and uncertainty regarding what is restricted to performance by registered landscape architects. Section 17 of the bill is particularly problematic in this regard.
- Because this legislation would prohibit performance of professional services by unregistered persons, it will likely produce greater areas of conflict and litigation by registered professionals seeking to protect their profession.
- In giving more protection to registered landscape architects for their profession, it does not provide any additional consumer protection than already exists through the legislative process.

I appreciate your time and the opportunity to present my opposition to this legislation. I look forward to the committee's recommendation regarding AB 667.

Sincerely,

THE BRUCE COMPANY OF WISCONSIN, INC.

Bliss C. Nicholson
President and COO

2830 Parmenter Street P.O. Box 620330 Middleton, WI 53562-0330 608-836-7041 Fax 608-831-4236

February 20, 2008

Re: AB 667

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry:

The Bruce Company of Wisconsin opposes AB 667 relating to landscape architecture.

As the Operations Manager of the Landscape Sales Division at The Bruce Company, my responsibility was to staff a large landscape design and sales office with the best qualified individuals.

In the past, when a Landscape Architect position is posted, we have had very poor response from applicants, as most professional Landscape Architects prefer to work for a design only firm. Our firm is one of the largest landscape contractors in the State of Wisconsin; we employ 28 design and sales professionals year round to handle both commercial and residential landscape design and sales.

Of the 28 team members, 17 are directly responsible for design work. Currently, nine of those 17 are registered landscape architects, the rest are landscape designers and horticulturists. In 2004, I posted a Landscape Architect sales position, knowing that this legislation was looming, and it took two years and two months to fill the position. In the end, I had to hire a Landscape Designer who is extremely qualified but hasn't taken the exam at this time.

Because of the size of our firm, we can provide all of the benefits of the largest design only firms, and yet we cannot attract individuals to the contracting side, largely because it is looked down upon by academia.

I feel strongly that this legislation presents potential financial hardships for us if passed. Position vacancies are extremely costly to any organization. Imagine having a key sales position open for over two years! We spend an inordinate amount of money on recruiting, and finding the right person that is suited for contracting continues to be a challenge. This legislation only complicates that problem.

I appreciate your time and the opportunity to present my opposition to this legislation. I look forward to the committee's recommendation regarding AB 667.

Sincerely,

THE BRUCE COMPANY OF WISCONSIN, INC.

Amy J. Sausen

the bruce company
OF WISCONSIN INC.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

2830 Parmenter Street P.O. Box 620330 Middleton, WI 53562-0330 608-836-7041 Fax 608-831-4236

JJR
landscape architecture
planning
urban design
civil engineering
environmental science

State of Wisconsin
Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry
AB 667 Public Hearing
20 February 2008

Chairman Honadel and Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity of a Public Hearing for AB 667. I am in full support of AB 667 for providing Practice Act legislation to the profession of Landscape Architecture in the State of Wisconsin.

I am a licensed Landscape Architect currently employed by JJR, LLC. Our office is located at 625 Williamson Street and I reside in the Tenney Park Neighborhood in Madison. JJR is a national leader in providing Landscape Architectural as well as, Planning, Urban Design, Civil Engineering, and Environmental Sciences. Since 1961, JJR has been working with clients throughout the United States and Worldwide. As a Landscape Architecture I have daily involvement with project locations in multiple states. In Wisconsin we are clearly at a disadvantage to licensed Landscape Architects in the 41 States with Practice Acts.

In order to practice Landscape Architecture in another state, with legislation, you are required to file for reciprocity. It is achievable to obtain reciprocity but more difficult process from Title State to Practice State. As you read through AB 667 you will find that we are adding to the language set forth by our current Title Act. AB 667 does not change the educational or professional requirements currently existing to Wisconsin Title Landscape Architects today.

I began my career in my home state of Kentucky 20 years ago. Kentucky has been a Practice State for Landscape Architects since the 1970's. Many of the projects that I was involved at the time required professional stamping, but clearly not all. In fact majority of the work we provided did not require a Landscape Architect's stamp. In over 30 plus year that has not changed, it is the sole responsibility of the governing body in the project location.

AB 667 does not contain language requiring State, City, or Local governing agencies utilize the professional services of Landscape Architects. Requiring professional stamping of documents is solely the responsibility of said governing body. Currently in Wisconsin cities such and Milwaukee and Madison require a Landscape Architects stamp be placed on planting plan drawings in bid sets documents submitted to the City.

At the Federal level, our government is now requiring Landscape Architects be licensed, meeting practice language found in AB 667. At JJR we work with GSA in providing design and detailing services for Federal building projects. These projects, such as courthouses and offices, are only available to Landscape Architects licensed outside of Wisconsin. Given JJR's work is national we can compete, but smaller local firms of Wisconsin are left out since most Landscape Architects in

JJR, LLC | 625 WILLIAMSON ST, MADISON, WI 53703 | **T** 608.251.1177 **F** 608.251.6147

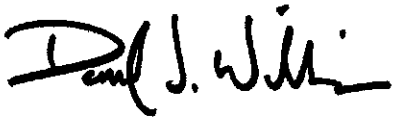
our state are not licensed elsewhere. One reason is multiple licenses become a burdening expense for most individuals.

There has been mention that once AB 667 is passed departments and programs in multiple landscape profession will disappear from the university system. Again, I refer to my experience while at the University of Kentucky. Much of my course work, including design courses, included classmates who where in school for degrees in Landscape Management, Nursery related fields, and other Horticultural/Forestry programs. Those individuals were on track to their degrees, not transfers out of the Landscape Architecture Department. As data has shown, the landscape industry has had significant growth in states with Practice Acts for Landscape Architects. We cannot afford to eliminate programs. Instead we will more than likely need to expand landscape industry opportunities for students throughout our state.

Landscape Architecture was a term that Frederick Law Olmstead coined in the late 1870's. In the early 1900's his son Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. and other professional acquaintances of Olmstead's created the American Society of Landscape Architects. The foundation of the profession is "Stewards of the Land". The core of our profession is to protect the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public. Landscape Architecture began in the United States and is found throughout the world today. I have a dear friend who is the first female and second Landscape Architect in Kenya, Africa. I am also proud to say she is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Department of Landscape Architecture.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to hear testimony on AB 667, licensure of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Williams, ASLA
Principal

Cc:
Honorable Representative Honadel, Chair
Honorable Representative VanAkkeren
Honorable Representative Sheridan
Honorable Representative Nelson
Honorable Representative Murtha
Honorable Representative Newcomer
Honorable Representative Wieckert
Honorable Representative Nass
Honorable Representative Gottlieb

BADGER LANDSCAPE LLC

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING

State of Wisconsin
Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry
AB 667 Public Hearing
20 February 2008

Chairman Honadel and Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity of a Public Hearing for AB667. I fully support AB667 for providing Practice Act legislation to the profession of Landscape Architecture in the State of Wisconsin.

I am a self employed Landscape Architect residing in Sun Prairie, WI. I own and operate Badger Landscape LLC, a design/build landscape contracting company, since 1988. I have been in the 'Green Industry' over 30 years, with experience in landscape nursery operations, garden center management and landscape contracting. I have been affiliated with the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation and it's parent, the Wisconsin Landscape Federation almost as long.

I have no reason to believe that the concerns brought forward by Green Industry representatives are without merit. We have made every effort to communicate with many WGIF members to address their concerns. Our responses have been met with many contradictions of the facts discussed.

The Green Industry has said many times that this is "fence" or "shut out" legislation, which is far from the intent of the Bill. After many communications with the Green Industry, exemptions were included in the Bill as not to specifically prevent the Green Industry from continuing their business as they have done in the past. The exemptions to practice have gained support from allied professionals, and were granted unanimous approval by the **Joint Board of Technical Registration in Wisconsin**. This Joint Board has members from the Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Designers, and Landscape Architects professions. The unanimous support of this group for our efforts says that we should be accorded equal status as a profession with a practice act.

The concept of practice over title licensure is not original to Wisconsin. Currently **forty one** other states have similar laws which provide for a practice act for Landscape Architects. We have communicated with the landscape contractors associations in these forty one states, with the specific question about how the bill in their state has negatively affected their industry. Not one group has responded with a negative reply. Our national organization, the American Society of Landscape Architects has collected data which reveals that the **landscaping industry in each of the states with practice acts dating from 1997 to 2002 has demonstrated an increase in revenue from $14.6 billion to over $28 billion in that space of time**. Landscape designers have increased their revenues three fold over the same time in those same states (American Society of Landscape Architects. Landscape Architecture Laws Regulatory Board Type. 15 June 2007).

Contrary to the WGIF's beliefs, no nursery, landscape designer or contractor has suffered any monetary harm from practice licensure in their state. In fact, it has been to the financial *benefit* to these businesses when practice licensure was enacted!

PO BOX 107, SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590
608-825-6722 JGEHLER@AOL.COM

BADGER LANDSCAPE LLC

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING

I submit Landscape Plans for review to many municipal, county and State governing bodies for review. It is essential to my business to be on equal footing with respect to other design professions. Practice legislation affords my work to be reviewed on equal ground as with architects and engineers.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to hear testimony on AB667, licensure of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely.

Jay Gehler, ASLA
Owner, Badger Landscape LLC

Honorable Representative Honadel, Chair
Honorable Representative VanAkkeren
Honorable Representative Sheridan
Honorable Representative Nelson
Honorable Representative Murtha
Honorable Representative Newcomer
Honorable Representative Wieckert
Honorable Representative Nass
Honorable Representative Gottlieb

PO BOX 107, SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590
608-825-6722 JGEHLER@AOL.COM

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON AB 667, 20 February 2008

Susan Thering, Ph.D., 113 Bascom Place, Madison WI 53726
608.213.8469 sathering@wisc.edu

I support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin.
Thank you for allowing me to speak on this matter of importance to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Wisconsin. I have professional degrees in Architecture and Landscape Architecture, in addition to the doctorate in Environmental Studies, which allows me to hold a faculty position in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I do not have a license, however, in the various University Outreach positions I have held, in New York, Pennsylvania, and most recently, in Wisconsin, I have worked closely with licensed professional architects, landscape architects, engineers, and surveyors, and I am very aware of the public health, safety, and welfare implications of a licensed profession.

My current position with the UW includes duties to the UW-Extension Community Development Program, specifically in the area of public participation in community land use planning and community design. My students and I have worked with community groups in over one hundred communities across the state over the past six years alone. These projects range from "Main Street" redevelopment, to public parks, to large scale natural areas, to community and neighborhood design. Each of these pre-professional projects is overseen by a licensed professional landscape architect. Over the years I have seen numerous instances where the expertise of a licensed landscape architect has raised community awareness about health, safety, and welfare issues that may otherwise have been overlooked (e.g. water quality issues due to stormwater runnoff; Americans With Disabilities Act/accessibility issues; pedestrian safety issues, and automobile safety issues).

A specific example that is very telling of the significance of the public health, safety, and welfare issues at the heart of the licensure issue is a request for technical assistance I received about a County Fairgrounds. This particular fairground was located on a hilly site adjacent to a stream. There were significant erosion issues in the parking lot and the fairgrounds proper, which caused mud and runoff, if it rained during the county fair. Although I do not have a license, I have enough expertise to understand the significant public health issues involved in the combination of cars, people (especially young children), animals (specifically animal waste), and a variety of events that involve the display, preparation, and consumption of foods, even without the added concerns of contaminated streams of muddy water draining from one area into another. In my younger days I would have accepted a challenging project like this, but having worked so closely with licensed professionals over the past several years, I know enough to know when I don't know enough. In this case I knew without a doubt that the public health, safety, and welfare issues were far beyond my expertise. I felt I would be negligent in my duties if I did not use what expertise I did have to describe these issues in some detail, and urge the Fairground Committee, using the strongest terms, that it would be in their best interest, and the best interest of the county residents, if they retained the services of a licensed landscape architect with extensive experience with alternative stormwater management, specifically stormwater management in public places.

In sum, my unequivocal support for AB 667 stems from my own professional education in landscape architecture, my many years of field work, and my many years of working with licensed professional landscape architects, which have made me very aware of the pubic health, safety, and welfare issues that are often unidentified, even by very knowledgeable, well meaning, people like myself. It is my opinion that the public health, safety, and welfare will be well served by this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Wisconsin Chapter
ASLA

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

P.O. BOX 851
MADISON, WI
53701-0851

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON AB 667, 20 February 2008

Pamela Linn
President WI ASLA
920 S. Wayfare Trail
Oconomowoc WI 53066

Good Morning. My name is Pamela Linn and I'm the President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WI ASLA) and a Senior Landscape Architect for Waukesha County Parks and Land Use. I want to thank the Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of the AB 667, legislation to upgrade Wisconsin's current landscape architecture title act to a practice act.

WI ASLA believes a practice act is a more beneficial form of regulation for both the public and the landscape architecture profession, for a variety of reasons. Let's address the benefits to the public first.

Protection of Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

First and foremost, there is a direct relationship between the practice of landscape architecture and public health, safety, and welfare. Landscape architects are trained to work on community master plans, specific site planning, roadway design, pedestrian walkways, wetland construction and mitigation, park and trail systems, erosion control, historic preservation, stormwater management, mine reclamation, to name just a few aspects of the profession.

All of these areas clearly impact the daily lives of communities and individuals, yet regulating the landscape architect title alone fails to protect the public from inappropriate or defective design work.

Let me share a few specific examples where the inappropriate practice of landscape architecture impacts the public health and safety:

- Inadequate design of outdoor lighting systems has presented undue fire and shock hazards, as well as a greater risk of crime and vandalism.
- Specification of unsafe playground equipment or improper location of playground facilities has resulted in injury.
- Inadequate design of roads, pedestrian walkways, and parking areas has increased the occurrence of accidents.
- Inappropriate specification and supervision of grading has resulted in landslides and massive erosion.
- Inadequate calculation and provision for stormwater drainage has resulted in flooding and costly damage to buildings, walkways, highways, and public facilities.

As these examples demonstrate, a practice act is critical in protecting the public from unqualified or incompetent individuals that engage in professional practice.

Additional Protections for the Public

Licensed landscape architects are required under law to act on the client's behalf. They can be held personally responsible for their actions and can be sued or criminally prosecuted for errors or negligence.

Since many aspects of the landscape architecture profession overlap with work done by other design professions, full licensure enables landscape architects to compete with other design professions on a more level playing field. As a result of this increased competition and greater consumer choice, a healthy marketplace can lead to reduced project prices for the consumer.

The protection of public health, safety, and welfare is the driving force for enactment of a practice act. Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge the benefits of licensure to landscape architects.

Professional Competition

Without a practice act, landscape architects may be unfairly disadvantaged in the marketplace. For instance, a landscape architecture firm may be discouraged from submitting a particular project proposal because the submitter is required or encouraged to hold a valid license.

Licensure allows landscape architects to compete with other regulated design professions on projects for which they are fully trained and capable of leading.

Without valid licensure, a landscape architect or firm seeking work outside their home state may find their efforts stymied, as proof of licensure is usually required before reciprocity is granted.

Licensed landscape architects are eligible for professional liability insurance, providing a benefit to both the professional and the client.

Professional Integrity

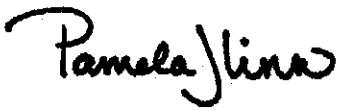
Landscape architects undergo educational training and requirements equal to that of other licensed design professions, and should therefore be eligible for a similar level of licensure. Landscape architecture must be regulated such that untrained individuals are prevented from engaging in professional practice.

The intensive education requirements that a landscape architect must take, in addition to passage of the rigorous, three day Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE), are further proof that landscape architecture is a highly technical profession that should be regulated by a practice act.

In closing, the direct link between landscape architecture and the protection of public health, safety, and welfare has been demonstrated. Upgrading Wisconsin's existing title act to a practice law is necessary to ensure that only competent, trained professionals are serving the public's landscape architecture needs.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to address any questions of the Committee

Sincerely,



Pamela Linn
President
Wisconsin Chapter ASLA

Cc:
Honorable Representative Honadel, Chair
Honorable Representative VanAkkeren
Honorable Representative Sheridan
Honorable Representative Nelson
Honorable Representative Murtha
Honorable Representative Newcomer
Honorable Representative Wieckert
Honorable Representative Nass
Honorable Representative Gottlieb

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON AB 667, 20 February 2008

Samuel F. Dennis Jr., PhD, ASLA
Assistant Professor
UW-Madison
Department of Landscape Architecture

Home Address:
658 Pickford Street
Madison, Wisconsin
53711
608.441.9475
sam.dennis.jr@gmail.com

I am on the faculty in the UW-Madison Department of Landscape Architecture. I am also a licensed landscape architect. And I support AB 667, the Practice Act for Landscape Architecture in Wisconsin. It is refreshing to support a bi-partisan effort that has the unanimous support of all the professions represented by the Joint Board of Technical Registration in Wisconsin.

I speak today, not on behalf of the Department of Landscape Architecture, but as a concerned citizen whose job it is to prepare students for careers in landscape architecture. For aspiring Landscape Architects, these steps include graduation from an accredited University program in Landscape Architecture, a period of professional apprenticeship, qualification to sit for the national licensing exam, passing the exam and applying for licensure. Our academic program prepares students for all sections of the exam, which in turn assures the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Here are a few highlights from the Department of Landscape Architecture's long distinguished history serving the people of Wisconsin.

- First degree in Landscape Architecture in 1926
- Department of Landscape Architecture created in 1964
- Nationally accredited professional degree initiated in1966
- A national leader since members of the department founded the discipline's premier research journal in 1981

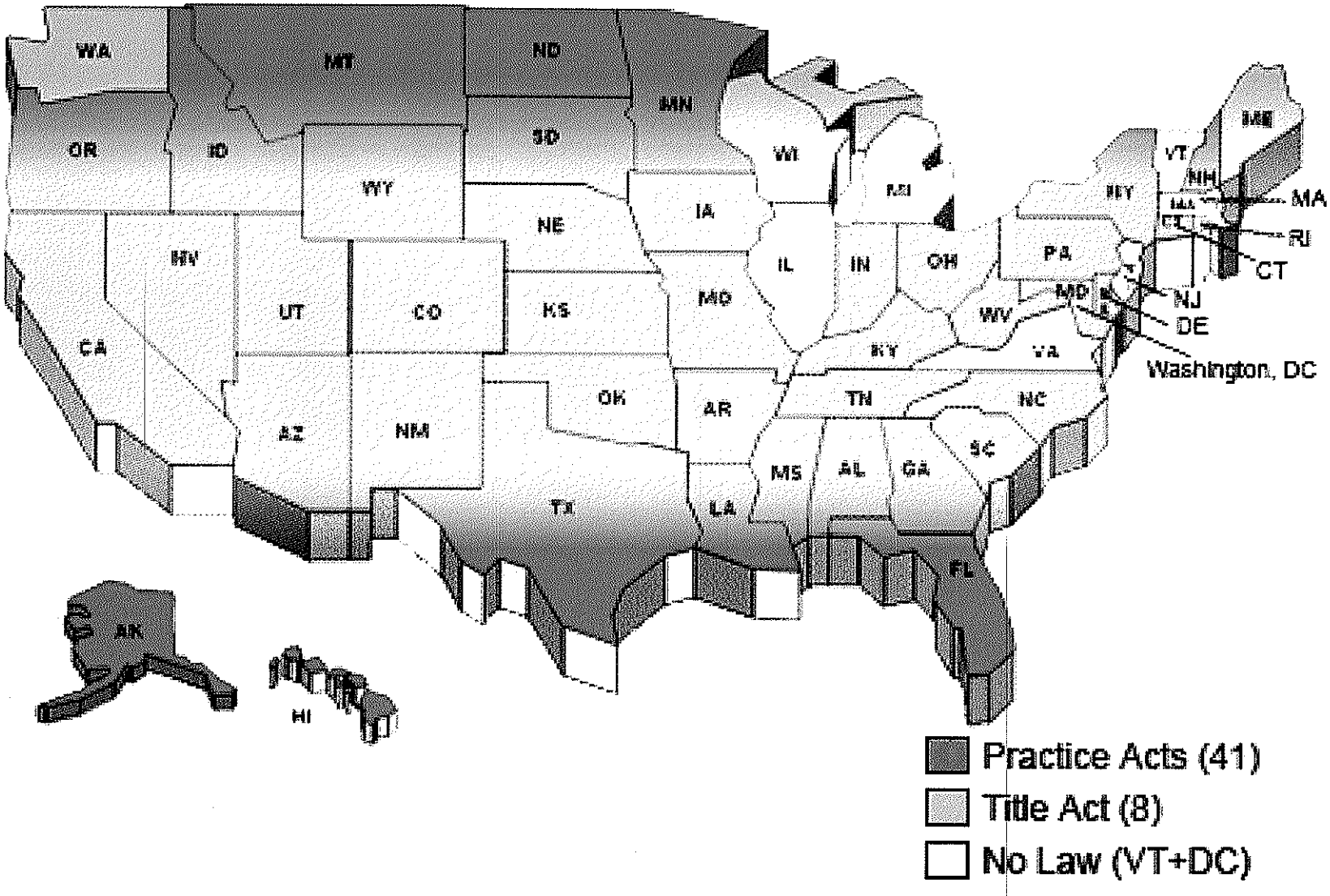
The department is becoming a net exporter of graduates. Here are some highlights from our recent survey of graduates from the last six years (source: UW Department of Landscape Architecture, Accreditation Self-Evaluation Report, November 2007):

- Only 53% remain in Wisconsin
- 47% practice in other states
- 68% are in private/public practice as landscape architects
- 13% are employed in the green industry: landscape design, design/build, landscape contracting or nursery production
- Of current students in our program (about 125 total) 14% seek green industry careers.

Wisconsin firms are at a disadvantage because we are one of the very few remaining states without a Landscape Architecture Practice Act. Passage of the act would allow our Wisconsin firms to compete with those firms from the majority states with practice acts in place. This would help our graduates find home-grown jobs here in Wisconsin. I have attached a list of the last six years of senior thesis projects so that you may find the ones in your home districts and get a sense of the loss of these bright students.

Finally, speaking from my experience practicing landscape architecture or teaching in accredited profession programs in three other states with practice acts, I know everybody wins: landscape contractors, landscape designers, nurseries and growers, all of us in the green industry. But most of all the Wisconsin public wins; the practice act ultimately provides for their health, safety and welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
636 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-3736 • Telephone: 202.898.2444 • Fax: 202.898.1185