

TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**FROM: Philip J. Meyer, L.A.
Landscape Architect Member, Kansas State Board of Technical Professions**

RE: SB 54

DATE: January 31, 2013

Good morning Senators. I am Phil Meyer, Landscape Architect member of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions (KSBTP). The KSBTP is charged with governing the licensing of 5 professions for the State of Kansas, those professionals being Architects, Professional Engineers, Geologists, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects. Our mission is to help protect the health, safety, property and welfare of the people of Kansas through the enforcement of our State Statutes and Rules and Regulations.

I am here today to outline the process our board has gone through to develop Senate Bill #54. Our board started this process approximately 3 years ago. The KSBTP created a subcommittee of 6 members from our 13 member board, which included a representative from each of the 5 professions governed by KSBTP. Our subcommittee spent 2 years thoroughly reviewing our statutes that govern our board paragraph by paragraph and word by word. On certain topics we researched Model Laws and Statutes that other states use to govern their licensees, searching for what would be the best solution for the State of Kansas. As mentioned in Dave Hoffman's testimony before me, these Statutes are in need of updating to help our Board govern our licensees in their modern-day practice.

Once our full Board had approved the draft revision that the subcommittee prepared and supported, we reached out to the societies that represent each of our licenses. In October of 2011, we held our first meeting with these 6 societies. These societies are as follows:

ACEC – American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas
Representing Consulting Engineering Businesses

AEG – Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists – Kansas City / Omaha
Representing our licensed Geologists

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AIA Kansas – American Institute of Architects Kansas
Representing our licensed Architects

KSLS – Kansas Society of Land Surveyors
Representing our licensed Professional Land Surveyors

KSPE – Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
Representing our licensed Engineers

PGASLA – Prairie Gateway American Society of Landscape Architects
Representing our licensed Landscape Architects

We held a total of 5 society meetings throughout this process. Each time we met, each Society sent 1 or 2 members to represent their specific interest. These meetings have turned out to be a great asset to the development of the proposed Statutes that are being presented today. At our first meeting, all 6 Societies agreed to a process of decision making by consensus. During these meetings we had many candid, but cordial conversations about the statutes that have ruled the KSBTP in the past and how our proposed revisions can benefit the Board's process. This process has built a trust and common understanding among the 5 professions that KSBTP oversees and the 6 Societies that represent them. In the end we feel this communication will strengthen our ability to govern our licensees and further support our mission to protect the health, safety, property and welfare of the citizens of Kansas.

All 6 societies that I have mentioned are here today to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 54. They are also available if you have any specific questions for them.

In conclusion, the KSBTP Statutes are in need of an overhaul so our Board can better govern the 5 professions that we have the responsibility to oversee for the State of Kansas. We have spent three years analyzing the necessary revisions, and bring to you today what we believe is a well thought out bill that is supported by both the Members of the KSBTP and the societies that represent our professional licensees.