

TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

RE: Senate Bill 24

DATE: January 29, 2015

Good morning Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee. I am Phil Meyer, Landscape Architect member of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions (KSBTP). The KSBTP is charged with regulating the licensing of five (5) professions for the State of Kansas, those professionals being Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Geologists, Professional Surveyors, and Landscape Architects. Our mission is to assure the protection of the health, safety, property and welfare of the people of Kansas, through the enforcement of our State Statutes and the Board's Rules and Regulations.

Last year the Legislature passed a comprehensive update to the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions' enabling Statutes, which was long overdue and necessary to help us fulfill our mission and function more efficiently. Your committee was instrumental in helping us complete those Statute updates. We are here today to ask your support with this "clean-up" bill, SB24.

We are proposing two minor amendments in response to an interpretation of last year's Statute revisions by Mr. Wyatt Hoch, an attorney from Wichita, who often practices in the design and construction industry. Mr. Hoch presented his opinion on certain aspects of the Statutes on May 14, 2014 to the general public. Many of our licensees have expressed concerns about Mr. Hoch's opinion. We are not here to concur with, object to, or debate Mr. Hoch's opinion. Instead, we are requesting this amendment to clarify the original intent of the Statute revisions and ease any concerns that Mr. Hoch's opinion has caused among the professionals licensed and regulated by the Board.

Essentially Mr. Hoch's interpretation was that the revised Statutes limited all Professional's practices such that only Architects could prepare drawings, specifications and other technical submittals. This very restrictive interpretation was never the intent of last year's Statute revisions. The Board is very proud of the multi-disciplinary cooperation between and among the five Professions that the Board regulates. We consider all professions we oversee to be equally valuable in the service they provide to the citizens of Kansas. We strongly believe that the proposed "clean-up" legislation resolves and clarifies the true intent of last year's original Statute revision.

We reached out to Mr. Hoch in November and requested his comments. He has responded to us stating, "I agree the changes proposed in this draft bill enable engineers, architects, surveyors, and geologists to seal their drawings/specs and resolve the problem introduced by SB349".

As was done with last year's legislation, we have reached out to the six (6) Societies that represent the five (5) professions under the Board's jurisdiction. We have been communicating with them to confirm their support of the proposed revisions that we are presenting today. These six (6) Societies are either here today to provide testimony or have provided written testimony in support of Senate Bill 24. They are also available if you have any specific questions for them.

These six societies are:

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 Professional Geologists

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

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

KSPE – Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
Representing our licensed Professional Engineers

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

In conclusion, the KSBTP would like your support of this “clean-up” bill, Senate Bill 24. We feel this bill provides the needed additional clarification to allow the five regulated Professions to continue to practice their professions in the same manner as they have in the past.