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To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Reference: Senate Bill 256 Written Testimony – Favorable

Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman, and Members of the Committee

My name is Carla Ellern and I am a Licensed Landscape Architect in Maryland, and a member and past President of the Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. I have been practicing Landscape Architecture in Maryland for almost 30 years.

I am in favor of Senate Bill 256, State Board of Professional Landscape Architects – Revisions. The proposed modernization of the statute's language continues to ensure the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public. The statute provides significant changes to the practice of landscape architecture and the licensing process for landscape architects.

Specifically:

1. Updating and modernizing the Landscape Architects Act so the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects will be able to continue regulating the profession effectively.
2. Ensuring the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Public.
3. Eliminating outdated procedures and terms.
4. Updating the name of "The State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects" to "State Board of Landscape Architects."
5. Revising the term "Licensed Landscape Architects" to "Professional Landscape Architects."
6. Reducing the experience required to be Board Member to allow younger voices to be heard.
7. Adjusting duties of the board to provide better governance of the board and Professional Landscape Architects.
8. Removing outdated language used in license renewal
9. Providing a provision for and defining the qualifications of Emeritus status.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my written testimony. I respectfully request a **favorable** report from the committee on HB 485.

Sincerely,

Carla Ellern, Landscape Architect

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