

February 11, 2026

Economic Matters Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis Maryland 21401

**Reference: HB 485, State Board of Professional Landscape Architects – Revisions**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

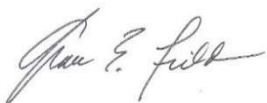
My name is Grace E. Fielder. I am representing myself as an individual, and as president of Grace E. Fielder & Associates, Chartered, a Landscape Architecture, and Environmental firm I founded in 1991. I serve on the Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects, however I am **not** speaking for them or representing them.

I became a licensed Landscape Architect in 1978, under the original statute effective on July 1, 1971. Of minor note my licensure number is 387, and I was the 15 woman to be registered in the State of Maryland. I am as passionate today about the profession as I was when I first started practicing in 1970. The legislation that is before you today will modernize the original statute, to better align Maryland's Landscape Architects with our fellow disciplines of civil engineering, land surveying, and architecture. First, and foremost, modernization continues to provide for and protect the public's Health, Safety, and Welfare. The updated statute provides for the following:

- Update "The State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects" to "State Board of Landscape Architects."
- "Licensed Landscape Architects" will be revised to "Professional Landscape Architects."
- Experience required to be Board Member has been reduced, allowing for a younger voice to be heard.
- Duties of the Board are adjusted providing for better governance of the Board and Professional Landscape Architects.
- Revising the language for renewal of license to remove outdated language.
- Provision of an Emeritus status and defining of qualifications

**Health, Safety, and Welfare** of the public remain the bed stone of the proposed changes to the statute. Modernization does not expand the regulatory authority but rather improves the framework to balance public protection with sustainable land use and environmental stewardship across the State of Maryland. **HB 485** ensures that only qualified individuals practice in areas that affect land use, community spaces, and environmental outcomes. For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable report on HB 485**.

Respectfully  
Grace



Grace E. Fielder PLA, FASLA, AICP, FAICP  
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