



A S L A

May 11, 2015

Dear Senator Scott and Representative Davis:

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects represents a large percentage of licensed landscape architects who live in the state. Many are small businesses owners. These are local well respected small businesses, some are multi state business, some have national and international reputations

We are the job creators most municipal governments covet: we bring work to other professionals, and to a variety of other services such as print shops, delivery services, accountants, cleaning services, computer technicians, and so many more. Our members donate services to local municipalities, not profits and other local organizations.

The requirements of our licensing and the nature of our creative profession draws well educated emerging professionals to our state. These professionals often settle here, start families and start their own business.

This only occurs when we, and our business, can compete in an increasingly competitive national and international environment. Although our creative talents are impossible to outsource, it can certainly move out of state. However some of the more skilled employees can be outsourced. The sophistication of technology is allowing for international competition for draftsmen, graphic artists and other well paying talents.

It is truly a shame that not for lack of work, but a burden of fees and taxes that companies are cutting local employment, moving out of state or just shutting down.

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*We believe this tax will :*

- Increase in the cost of construction projects discouraging businesses from locating or expanding in Connecticut.
- Negatively impact the housing market, making housing less affordable for residents in the state.
- This tax will be overly confusing and complicated for the nature of our businesses.
  - as the multi-state nature of customers and service providers often makes it difficult to determine where, when, and how the services take place.
  - when Connecticut taxed these services about 25 years ago, the Department of Revenue Services recommended that the tax be eliminated in part because of the complexity in administering the tax relative to the dollars the tax was generating for the state.
- It will create competitive disadvantage for our companies. Potential clients will move the design of projects out of state.
- To cover the burden of managing this tax , well paying jobs will leave the state as firms outsource in an effort to cut cost

This new tax will a disaster for small firms trying to perform Landscape Architectural, Architectural & Engineering services for clients with limited budgets.

We respectfully ask that this burdensome tax on design professionals not be considered.

Respectfully,

Barbara A. Yaeger  
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