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December 11, 2018

Dear ASLA Member, Illinois Chapter,

As a member of the Landscape Architecture community, you may be aware of certain issues surrounding the case for licensure and the pursuit of a Practice Act in Illinois. If you are not, or have not received complete information, this is to inform you of the relevant items that directly affect you and your firm or practice and how you can positively influence the effort.

**We need your support to protect the *business* of landscape architecture. In 2019, it will take \$60,000 to cover expenses and lobbyist fees to move to a Practice Act and to stay on top of continued licensure threats.**

We ask you to please support the advocacy effort by donating directly to the [Advocacy Fund here](#) or by downloading and mailing the pledge form found at [il-asla.org](http://il-asla.org) under the advocacy tab. As acknowledgment, your name will be listed on the website, unless otherwise requested. The suggested minimum donation is \$100 however any and all amounts are appreciated. If you would like a personal call from a board member to answer any questions, please let us know. Installments can be arranged by contacting [susan@il-asla.org](mailto:susan@il-asla.org) or 630-833-4516.

If you have already given, we thank you tremendously. Your support has been put to use over the past year in developing the act, paying for our lobbyist and, consequently, staying ahead of key issues that affect the industry.

**Right now, there are two central issues ahead of us.**

#### **Issue 1: Staying Ahead of Legislation**

In March 2017, ILASLA was notified of a new bill which would repeal the Landscape Architecture Act of 1989 and deregulate the profession. A governmental affairs consultant was promptly hired by the chapter to lobby on our behalf. There was a hearing for the bill in the Illinois Senate Licensed Activities and Pensions Committee in Springfield and, with the help of the consultant and Senator Pamela Althoff (32nd District), the committee agreed to remove Landscape Architecture from the bill. The threat was thus managed and our Title Act still remains in place.

The number of individuals opposing the proposed legislation exceeded 500 and included chapter members and non-members alike. This sent a strong message to the Senate Committee - landscape architecture should not be subject to de-licensure.

**P.O. Box 4566, Oak Brook, Illinois 60522-4566 | 630-833-4516 | [info@il-asla.org](mailto:info@il-asla.org)**

*Landscape architects lead the stewardship, planning, and design of our built and natural environments.  
The Society's mission is to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.*

ILASLA has since concluded that we must be better prepared and informed for similar legislative threats which could adversely impact our profession and future. The lobbyist firm *Illinois Strategies* has been retained to help with exactly that.

## **Issue 2: Our Future as a Practice Act State**

All 50 states have recognized that regulation of landscape architecture is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. All but three states regulate the profession through a Practice Act, which requires a license to practice the profession and use the title 'landscape architect'. **The remaining three states, Illinois, Maine and Massachusetts, have enacted a Title Act statute, a weaker form of regulation that allows anyone to practice landscape architecture if they call it something else.**

Under close advisement from a leadership team of Illinois ASLA Fellows, Past Chapter Presidents and Trustees, as well as the current Elected Board Members, the ILASLA maintains that 1. Allowing the act to sunset is unacceptable to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the public and 2. Moving the act from "Title" to "Practice" is in the best interest of Illinois Chapter members as well as non-member Illinois registered landscape architects.

## **Staying Informed**

1. Watch for information on vital issues surrounding Advocacy through emails, *Stream*, and on our website [il-asla.org](http://il-asla.org) under the Advocacy tab.
2. Act when action is required. This includes hosting a site tour with your legislator, signing witness slips when notified, joining us at the AIA Advocacy Day, and knowing and communicating accurate information surrounding legislative issues.
3. Attend ILASLA events that benefit the Advocacy Fund.

We appreciate your thoughts, attention, and action in these efforts. **If you are open to hosting a site tour of a project in your district or possibly another key area, please contact [susan@il-asla.org](mailto:susan@il-asla.org).**

Most Sincerely,

The Board of The Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and  
Susan Ragaishis, Executive Director

Please feel free to reach out to any of the following with questions or comments:

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