

Dave Heineman
Governor

**Nebraska State Board
of Landscape Architects**

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February 4, 2010

Senator Lavon Heidemann, Chairperson
Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

RE: Budget Action Plan for State Board of Landscape Architects

Dear Chairperson Heidemann and Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for the additional time to reply to your December 4, 2009 memorandum, allowing the Board to discuss the Budget Plan at their quarterly meeting on January 26. The following report is being submitted to detail specific plans to implement budget actions pursuant to Legislative Bill 1, Legislative Bill 2 and Legislative Bill 3, First Special Session, 2009.

PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010

LB 1 provided for a 2 1/2% ATB reduction in the base appropriation for FY2009/2010 of \$572 and a specific Cash Fund transfer of \$572 to the General Fund.

2 1/2% ATB Budget Reduction of \$572: Reduction of the base appropriation will be accomplished by reducing Educational Services by \$572.

Re-appropriation Reduction of \$3,807: The re-appropriation reduction will be accomplished by reducing Other Operating Expenses by \$3,807, which was gained due to extremely conservative spending of expenditures during the previous biennium. Board members have been donating their time to attend quarterly meetings without reimbursement of mileage. The Board will not be sending a representative to the CLARB Spring meeting in late February to conserve expenditures.

IMPACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010

Impact on staffing: There is no impact since the Board has no staff. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Engineers and Architects covers administrative services, equipment and office space.

Impact on services provided to the public and/or agency functions: The impacted services will be borne primarily by tightening educational service expenditures (examination purchases) and other operating expenditures.

Impact on receipt of federal funds: The Board operates totally from their Cash Fund, funded by application and licensing fees. No state or federal funds are involved.

Anticipated fee increase: The Board did not increase fees during FY2009/2010 to offset the cash fund transfer to the General Fund. The majority of revenue collected comes from renewal fees which must be set during the first part of the fiscal year. Notices for license renewal are mailed the first part of October. The Board has adequate funds to sustain the reduction during FY2009/2010.

PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011

LB 1 provided for the 5% ATB reduction in the base appropriation for FY2010/2011 of \$1,143 and a specific Cash Fund transfer of \$1,143 to the General Fund.

In 2009, the Board of Engineers and Architects raised the Memorandum of Understanding for administrative services, office space and equipment from \$12,360 in FY 2009/2010 to \$17,821 for FY 2010/2011, amounting to 82% of the base appropriation after the reduction. In 2008, the Board was appropriated their total budget request for FY 2010/2011 which only included \$12,360 for the Memorandum of Understanding. The State Board of Landscape Architects does not have enough appropriation to remain solvent and pay the MOU. After discussions during the January Board meeting, negotiations are underway with the Board of Engineers and Architects to reduce the Memorandum of Understanding for FY 2010/2011 allowing the State Board of Landscape Architects to stay within the total appropriation. The following reduction plan can only take place if the Board is successful in their attempt to reduce the MOU.

5% ATB Budget Reduction of \$1,143: Reduction of the base appropriation will be accomplished by reducing Educational Services by \$1,143.

IMPACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011

Impact on staffing: There is no impact since the Board has no staff. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Engineers and Architects covers administrative services, equipment and office space.

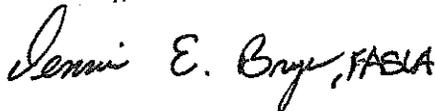
Impact on services provided to the public and/or agency functions: The impacted services will be borne primarily by lowering the amount budgeted to purchase examinations. If more examinees want to take the exam than the Board has budgeted for, they would have to go to another state for exam administration. This could result in fewer licenses based in Nebraska which would further reduce Board revenue.

Impact on receipt of federal funds: The Board operates totally from their Cash Fund, funded by application and licensing fees. No state or federal funds are involved.

Anticipated fee increase: The Board will be forced to increase fees during FY 2010/2011 to offset the cash fund transfer to the General Fund and the increased cost of the MOU. Depending on the negotiated price of the MOU, the Board may need to increase renewal fees from \$170 to \$245 per year.

Let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at (402) 444-3798 or at dbryers@ci.omaha.ne.us.

Sincerely,



Dennis E. Bryers, FASLA
Board Chairperson

cc: Gary Bush, DAS Budget Analyst
Doug Gibbs, Legislative Fiscal Analyst