



October 2, 2012

The Honorable John Carona
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068

Dear Chairman Carona:

Enclosed please find the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners' report for your October 9, 2012 meeting of the Texas Senate Committee on Business and Commerce.

I look forward to working with you, your committee, and your staff in the coming months, and I'm always available to talk about our agency and matters important to you and the Committee.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy L. Hendricks', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cathy L. Hendricks, RID/ASID/IIDA
Executive Director

Enclosures

To: Texas Senate Committee on Business and Commerce

From: Cathy L. Hendricks, RID
Executive Director, Texas Board of Architectural Examiners

Subject: Quarterly agency update

Date: October 2, 2012

Since the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners' (TBAE) last update, a few items of interest are worth reporting to the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce. As always, TBAE staff is ready to work with Committee staff to answer questions or provide any information necessary.

HB 2284 implementation

As previously noted, the portion of this legislation regarding the creation of an "Excepted Engineer List" (comprised of certain professional engineers allowed to practice architecture) has concluded successfully. The second portion of the bill requires TBAE and the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to create a task force of Board members and practitioners of architecture and engineering to clarify any remaining issues.

That task force has convened twice, and has made great strides in drawing a clear distinction between certain discrete practices that are architecture, engineering, or both. The task force is nearing finalization of its report on a few remaining topics for presentation to both boards. The agencies look forward to resolving these matters soon.

Performance Measure assessment

In 2012 the agency chose to undergo a thorough review of its newly crafted Performance Measures (PMs). Even after careful staff review uncovered no areas of concern, and bearing in mind the importance of these statutorily-required PMs, the agency took another step in seeking an outside review of the structure, meaningfulness, validity, and accuracy of these PMs.

This outside review by an IT consulting firm resulted in good news. After thorough testing, the IT consulting firm found no cause for concern and was comfortable verifying that the new PMs are well crafted, meaningful, calculated appropriately, and reported accurately.

Sunset review

Throughout the summer, TBAE worked closely with staff from the Sunset Commission of Texas during their review of the agency. The process was smooth and professional, and Sunset staff will be publishing its report in October, with a Commission hearing in November and a bill to move through the legislative process starting in January, 2013.

Outreach efforts

The agency is putting forth a great outreach effort, particularly since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2013. Already, staff has visited nine separate groups, many of them accredited design professional programs across the state, since the beginning of September. In this single month, TBAE's outreach effort has netted nearly 300 impressions; that is, nearly 300 individuals have listened to and asked questions of TBAE communications staff since the new fiscal year began.