



**National Society of
Professional Engineers®**



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CERTIFICATION
IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES®**

September 12, 2013

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
388 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States House of Representatives
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Kaine and Representative Duckworth,

The National Society of Professional Engineers and its National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies wish to express support for **S. 700/ H.R. 1796, the Troop Talent Act of 2013**. This legislation will facilitate improved alignment of specialty skills acquired in military service with civilian certifications or licenses required for post-service employment.

NSPE is the national society of licensed professional engineers from all disciplines that promotes the ethical and competent practice of engineering, advocates licensure, and enhances the image and well-being of its members. NSPE serves more than 35,000 members and the public through 53 state and territorial societies and over 400 chapters.

Created by NSPE in 1961, NICET provides rigorous testing and certification programs for technicians and technologists across a broad range of engineering disciplines. NICET certification programs are designed to evaluate the qualifications of engineering technicians and technologists through a combination of assessments, including written examination, work experience documentation, performance verification and personal recommendation. NICET certification also provides a clearly defined career path for engineering technicians and technologists, and equips employers with a more highly skilled workforce. By employing workers who have demonstrated technical mastery through NICET certification, corporate and government employers can provide higher quality goods and services and, ultimately, ensure a higher degree of public safety.

As you know, many service members acquire valuable technical skills during their years of active duty. However, in order to be competitive in the civilian employment market, veterans need better information about how their military skill sets translate to the requirements of the civilian workforce. Our Armed Forces personnel currently receive insufficient information during and after their military occupational specialty training on translating their skills to civilian occupations and credentials.

The Troop Talent Act of 2013 addresses this gap by improving the information available to members of the Armed Forces at all stages of training, and increasing accredited civilian credentialing agency access to military training content.



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Thank you for your leadership and commitment in ensuring that transitioning veterans have increased information and access to civilian certification, licensure, and credentialing opportunities. NSPE stands ready to assist as this bill moves through the legislative process. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact NSPE Manager of Government Relations Arielle Eiser at 703-684-2844 or aeiser@nspe.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Robert A. Green'.

Robert A. Green, P.E., F.NSPE
President
NSPE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dawn Edgell'.

Dawn Edgell, P.E.
Chair
NICET