

January 9, 2017

Secretary H. Wood “Woody” Thrasher, PE
West Virginia Department of Commerce
Capitol Complex, Bldg. 6, Room 553
Charleston, WV 25305-0311

Dear Secretary Thrasher:

On behalf of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and the West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers (WVSPE), we extend our sincerest congratulations on being appointed West Virginia Secretary of Commerce!

As you know, NSPE and WVSPE have long advocated for licensed professional engineers (PEs) to be in responsible charge of all projects that constitute the practice of engineering, thereby protecting the safety and welfare of the public that we, as professional engineers, are committed to uphold. The PE license demonstrates an engineer’s commitment to the highest standards of engineering practice and ethical conduct and shows that the individual has the proper education, experience, and qualifications to provide vital engineering services to the public.

Your appointment as Secretary of Commerce for the great state of West Virginia has delivered this assurance to the citizens of the state. Further, the important role and responsibilities of this office clearly call for a leader who has proven qualifications attained only through a PE license.

As you know, the debate over the role of government in regulating occupations and professions has recently come to the forefront. While the work of PEs clearly affects the public health, safety, and welfare, it is not uncommon for state legislatures to categorize highly educated and trained PEs with barbers and cosmetologists in the debate over eliminating occupational licenses. During your tenure as Secretary of Commerce for West Virginia, we know you will be a champion and protect the PE license. Please let us know how we can be a resource to you and the Department.

NSPE, WVSPE, and the PEs we represent have a foremost responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, including the responsibility to make others aware of ways that safety may be jeopardized. If we can answer any questions or respond to any comments, please contact Arielle Eiser, Senior Manager of Government Relations, at aeiser@nspe.org.

Sincerely,



Kodi Jean Verhalen, P.E., Esq., F.NSPE
President, 2016-2017
National Society of
Professional Engineers



David L. Weaver, P.E.
President, 2017-2018
West Virginia Society of
Professional Engineers