

April 11, 2017

Chairwoman Irene Bustamante Adams
Nevada Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor

Vice Chair Maggie Carlton
Nevada Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor

Dear Chairwoman Bustamante Adams and Vice Chair Carlton,

On behalf of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Nevada Society of Professional Engineers, we are writing today to urge you to oppose AB 353. In section 10(1)(b), the legislation states “Occupational regulations shall be construed and applied to increase economic opportunities, promote competition and encourage innovation.” Within section 10(1)(c), “Where the State finds it necessary to displace competition, it will use the least restrictive regulation to protect consumers from present, significant, and substantiated harms that threaten public health and safety.”

The debate over the role of government in regulating occupations and professions has recently come to the forefront. While the work of professional engineers—like that of doctors, registered architects, and attorneys—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.

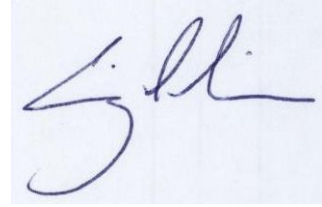
The professional engineer’s foremost responsibility is to practice in a manner that protects the public health, safety and welfare. Nevada’s professional engineers design and administer the construction of bridges, tunnels, buildings, waste-water treatment facilities, plants, factories, processing centers and many other public and private development projects. The Professional Engineer (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 these engineering services to the public.

The National Society of Professional Engineers and the Nevada Society of Professional Engineers strongly believe that the current regulations affecting professional engineers in Nevada protect the public health, safety, and welfare. We urge you to oppose AB 353 or any legislation that repeals occupational regulations. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kodi Jean Verhalen".

Kodi Jean Verhalen, P.E., Esq., F.NSPE
President, 2016-17
National Society of
Professional Engineers

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Sisco".

Craig Sisco, P.E.
President, 2016-2017
Nevada Society of
Professional Engineers