



**National Society of  
Professional Engineers®**

June 26, 2015

Mr. Jim Atterholt  
Office of the Governor  
Statehouse  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mr. Nick Rhoad  
Executive Director, Indiana Professional Licensing Agency  
200 W. Washington St., Room W072  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Atterholt and Mr. Rhoad:

On behalf of the more than 32,000 members of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), I respectfully but strongly urge the Indiana Job Creation Committee (JCC) to reverse its recommendation to eliminate the licensing of engineers in the State of Indiana and include this reversal in the final version of the JCC's report to the Governor.

Eliminating licensure of Professional Engineers in the state of Indiana will have tremendous repercussions both for the citizens of the Hoosier State as well as all other states and territories in our nation. In fact, the proposed elimination of engineering licensure in the state of Indiana will effectively destroy Indiana's link to a national system of engineering licensure that exists in all states and territories, undermine the interests of all Indiana's licensed Professional Engineers and place Indiana's economic competitiveness at a huge disadvantage.

Professional Engineers and engineering firms have invested countless hours and many millions of dollars to pursue and maintain engineering licensure in Indiana and in other US states and territories. This proposal will have a profoundly negative effect on the ability of engineers in Indiana and the businesses they lead, work in, and support. In brief, this will stunt Indiana's economic growth, which is counterproductive to the JCC's very mission and purpose.

The Professional Engineer's foremost responsibility is to practice in a manner that protects the public health, safety and welfare. Indiana'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 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 JCC's recommendation states that "a voluntary system, such as the self-certification registry, would be a great regulatory structure for the profession." Most unfortunately, history reveals that self-regulation is tantamount to no regulation at all. Licensure of engineers, in fact, in all states was driven by instances in which citizens were killed or injured and property damaged due to errors and omissions committed by individuals who practiced engineering without the proper education, experience, qualifications and ethics.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this comment. NSPE urges in the strongest terms possible for the Indiana Job Creation Committee to reverse its recommendation to eliminate licensure of Professional Engineers in the State of Indiana and to include this reversal in the final version of the JCC's report to protect the public safety of Indiana's citizens and to



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benefit Indiana's economic competitiveness. Professional Engineers are responsible for the buildings Hoosiers live and work in and the roads, railways and transportation systems that Hoosiers use to commute every day. To include such a proposal, even if it is not accepted, would create a most dangerous precedent for Indiana and for the entire profession. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this issue please feel free to contact Scott Haraburda, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, President of the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers at [scott@haraburda.us](mailto:scott@haraburda.us), Amy Barrett, P.E., F.NSPE, President-Elect of the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers at [abarrett@haferassociates.com](mailto:abarrett@haferassociates.com) or Arielle Eiser, NSPE's Senior Manager of Government Relations at [aeiser@nspe.org](mailto:aeiser@nspe.org).

Sincerely,

Harve D. Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE  
President  
National Society of Professional Engineers

cc: Scott Haraburda, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, President, Indiana Society of Professional Engineers  
Amy Barrett, P.E., F.NSPE, President-Elect, Indiana Society of Professional Engineers  
Arielle Eiser, Senior Manager of Government Relations, National Society of Professional Engineers