

November 4, 2016

Shannon Stanfill

Executive Director

Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors

6920 Yellowtail Rd., Ste. 100

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Dear Ms. Stanfill:

On behalf of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and the Wyoming Society of Professional Engineers (WySPE), we strongly recommend that the Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors revise their proposed legislation pertaining to the Wyoming Surveyors and Engineers Practice Act.

NSPE and WySPE believe that Section 33-29-403(a)(iii)(B), *Requirements for Professional Licensure*, of the draft bill would weaken professional licensure requirements. Based on the proposed draft language, Wyoming would waive the requirement for taking the Fundamentals of Engineering examination (FE exam) for individuals who have engaged in the practice of engineering for at least twenty years.

Licensure as a professional engineer requires three key components: education, examination, and experience. The FE exam tests applicants to ensure that they meet the necessary standards in academic competence to practice engineering. NSPE and WySPE recognize that, in certain instances, where academic competence has already been clearly established, whether by earning a Ph.D or serving as an engineering faculty member, the FE exam may be waived. However, to waive the FE exam for an applicant who has not met the critical academic competence standards, weakens requirements and lowers standards, potentially endangering the public health, safety and welfare. The passage of the proposed legislation would seriously undermine a critical foundation of professional engineering practice. These standards have served as the backbone of the profession and public safety for decades.

NSPE and WySPE strongly believe a waiver for the FE exam should not be granted solely based on professional experience. The FE exam is a critical component of the education and qualifications necessary to become a professional engineer. Therefore, we recommend the Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors rescind their draft language to exempt professional

engineering licensure for those who have engaged in engineering for at least twenty years.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue. Please contact Arielle Eiser, NSPE Senior Manager of Government Relations, at aeiser@nspe.org with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,



Kodi Jean Verhalen, P.E., Esq., F.NSPE
President, 2016-2017
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Kelly Hafner, P.E.
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