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WRITTEN TESTIMONY 2024-2025 OPERATING BUDGET SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNE 9, 2023

Dear Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Cirino, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and all members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio (PLSO), I am writing to convey our opposition to the language in the 2024-2025 state budget bill [HB 33] that would eliminate the requirement that elected county engineers possess registration as both a professional engineer and professional surveyor.

Dual registration as a professional engineer and professional surveyor ensures that those elected as county engineers have the appropriate education and experience to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. County engineers are ultimately responsible for surveying work performed in their counties, including road construction, property mapping and maintenance of the county tax map parcel boundary data, documentation of county sections, and the creation and recording of maps and property line changes. They also provide mapping support for other agencies in the county. A county engineer who is only a professional engineer would not have the breadth of knowledge and experience to fulfill these duties.

If the professional surveyor registration requirement is eliminated, counties will still need to employ a licensed surveyor, either as a county employee or contractor, causing an additional financial burden for counties. Also, if a county contracts with a professional surveyor who performs surveying services in the same county, they would not be able to legally sign-off on their own work. This, again, would cause a burden for the county in having to contract several individuals to perform this work that is currently done by the county engineer.

PLSO strongly opposes the language in the 2024-2025 state budget bill removing the professional surveyor license requirement for county engineers for the reasons stated above. We would be pleased to offer additional information or clarification should any member of the committee require.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Paula Hammer, Executive Director Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio