

November 18, 2020

The Honorable Paul Zeltwanger
Chairman, House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Zeltwanger:

On behalf of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), I am writing to offer a public thank you to Representative Jena Powell, sponsor of House Bill 258, and her staff for efforts and consideration of an amendment that the Society has sought to House Bill 258.

House Bill 258, as introduced, included professional engineers in the apprenticeship program sought in the bill, which caused the Society to oppose the bill. However, Representative Powell has agreed to an amendment to remove the bill's application to professional engineers. The Society can now remove its opposition to the bill.

Allow me to take with this opportunity to share that, in general, there is a significant difference between occupational licensure and professional licensure. In the case of professional engineers, there are years of education and required work experience, passage of a national examination and an oath sworn to uphold and protect the health, safety and wellness of Ohioans. In many instances, occupational licensure does not require the level of education, training and experience to obtain employment, which may be appropriate for some of the jobs identified by Representative Powell. OSPE supports the concept of employment and access for people to obtain employment without significant investment of resources and barriers. However, OSPE will always stand to protect the licensure of professional engineers and any attempts to strip away the minimum level of criteria that are necessary for that licensure to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare.

Again, we appreciate the removal of professional engineers from reference in the bill and the committee's action on the amendment to House Bill 258.

Sincerely,



David D. Dexter, P.E.
Past President, OSPE