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**Senate Bill 131 Proponent Testimony**

**House State and Local Government Committee**

**December 13, 2022**

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John and Ranking Member Kelly I am submitting written comments regarding Senate Bill 131 on behalf of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) – the single, most powerful voice representing Ohio’s professional engineers.

**OSPE is fully supportive of Senate Bill 131, as passed by the Senate.**

We thank the sponsors, Senators Kristina Roegner and Rob McColley, for introducing Senate Bill 131 as this occupational license “reciprocity” bill appeared in its last form in the 133rd Ohio General Assembly – complete with the trio of fundamental requirements for engineering licenses, including the “minimum education requirement,” “satisfactory work experience,” and passing “an examination.”

This “three-legged stool” of education, experience and examination is recognized nationwide under model law prescribed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Having met the education and experience requirements, licensed engineers have established that they are appropriately trained to practice. Through the examination process, they have demonstrated that they can effectively perform the duties of their work and that they can safeguard the public in doing so.

We appreciate Senators Roegner and McColley for working with OSPE on this matter. We appreciate their meetings with our members and their work to accommodate our concerns. Their bill to reduce government red tape for securing Ohio occupational licenses is noble. We are glad that we were jointly able to come to this language regarding engineering licenses – language that protects the public and still honors the spirit of the legislation.

Thank you also to Senator Louis W. Blessing, III, PE, who was invaluable in helping OSPE on this matter in the 133rd Ohio General Assembly. His efforts are helping the public be as safe as possible when it comes to engineering licenses.

We are grateful for the House State and Local Government Committee for taking the time to review the bill and endeavoring to ensure that Senate Bill 131’s nuances work for occupational licensees and Ohioans alike. We are eager to continue collaborating with you on future legislative matters that pertain to professional engineers and engineering work.