



Andrew J. Baumer PE, PS

Auglaize County Engineer  
1014 S. Blackhoof Street, P.O. Box 59  
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

419-739-6520  
abaumer@auglaizecounty.org

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

I am providing this testimony to request the removal of language in HB 33 that changes the qualifications to run for County Engineer.

My name is Andrew Baumer and I have been the Auglaize County Engineer since August 2021. In my short time as County Engineer, the need for the knowledge and expertise of a Professional Surveyor in this position became apparent almost immediately. I've had to review and determine resolutions for a multitude of new surveys, lot splits, and deeds with conflicts with our accepted conveyance standards. I work closely with residents, local attorneys, County Auditor, and County Recorder to make sure transfers are completed efficiently and accurately. I am oftentimes a resource utilized by those parties because of my education and professional knowledge base, thus enhancing the efficiency of local government procedures.

If a Professional Surveyor were to be hired to review deeds and surveys, he or she would not be able to perform private survey work in that county because of the conflict of interest in reviewing their own work. This would essentially put that person out of business. One of the biggest complaints we hear is the lack of private surveyors and the time it takes to get private surveys completed because of their backlog of work. Forcing counties to hire a Professional Surveyor from an already limited pool will put a bigger strain on the private surveying market and thus hinder the constituents we have been elected to serve.

As it stands, the County Engineer is responsible for 2 professional tasks as one person. We act as the Professional Engineer tasked with preparing plans, specifications, and cost estimates for road and bridge projects and the Professional Surveyor for staking out right-of-way, determining section corners, reviewing deed transfers along with other duties as listed above. Taxpayer dollars are being utilized effectively by having one person perform both of those duties. The cost of hiring a Professional Surveyor would be a significant burden to every County and not an efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

I believe the current requirement for a County Engineer to be both a Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor makes them one of the most efficient positions both financially and procedurally, in local government. Reducing that requirement would be a detriment to Ohio's Counties and its citizens. Therefore, I am asking to remove the language in HB 33 that changes the qualifications to run for County Engineer. I believe this issue should be in a separate bill, if the legislature wants to make changes to this elected position; not in the budget bill and no IP meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew J. Baumer".

**Andrew J. Baumer, P.E., P.S.**  
Auglaize County Engineer