



FINANCE COMMITTEE

WITNESS FORM

COMMITTEE DATE: 6-8-2023

NAME: Mark Eicher

ADDRESS: 155 Rehl Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701

TELEPHONE: 740-454-0155

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING: Muskingum County Engineer

TESTIFYING ON BILL NUMBER: HB 33

TESTIMONY TYPE: WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIFYING AS: OPPONENT

FOR BUDGET TESTIMONY ONLY:

TESTIMONY TOPIC: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIFYING ON BUDGET ITEM(S):

HAVE YOU TESTIFIED ON H.B. 33 IN A SENATE COMMITTEE? NO

ARE YOU A REGISTERED LOBBYIST? NO

SPECIAL REQUESTS: Remove language changing qualification to run for County Engineers

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website.



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Mark J. Eicher, P.E., P.S. - Muskingum County Engineer

Engineer@mceo.org

June 7, 2023

Dear Committee members:

HB 33 has verbiage eliminating the Professional Surveyor requirement for the County Engineer position and does not even specify that the County Engineer be a civil engineer. This leaves the position open such that an electrical, mechanical, petroleum or other engineer can run for the position as long as he or she has the Professional Engineer license.

Eliminating the requirement of a dual registered engineer and surveyor would be a huge detriment to our citizens, the counties and the state. The cost of hiring a Professional Surveyor would be a significant burden to every county. The pool of registered surveyors has continued to decline over the past decades and cannot accommodate the hiring of professional surveyors from private practice. We all have a limited number of surveyors working in our counties and cannot afford to lose them from serving in private practice.

As per ORC 315.25 the county engineer is charged with keeping accurate survey records of the county. Without the dual license, the county must hire a surveyor to review the surveys to ensure that they meet the minimum survey standards of the State of Ohio.

Once a surveyor starts working for a county he is no longer permitted to do surveys within that county. If he performs even one survey in the county in which he is employed, he is opening himself up to possible investigations from the Ohio Auditor of State for an ethics violation.

Any help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark J. Eicher".

Mark J. Eicher, P.E., P.S.
Muskingum County Engineer
155 Rehl Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701
740-454-0155