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Senator Theresa Gavarone
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Ground Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

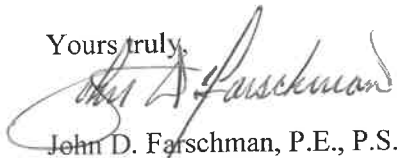
Dear Senator Gavarone:

I am writing this to advise why slipping an amendment into HB33, that eliminates the requirement of a Professionally Registered County Engineer to additionally be a licensed Registered Professional Surveyor in the State of Ohio, is simply a poorly thought out, bad idea.

- The current laws for the position of County Engineer provide a much higher standard through the necessity to be professionally registered in each discipline. (Engineer and Surveyor)
- Another professionally registered engineer, i.e. Electrical-Chemical-Nuclear-Mechanical for example, does not possess the background nor the specific education that a Civil Engineer has relative to construction, nor maintenance of such public infrastructure (roads, bridges, drainage, etc.) however, they too could satisfy the proposed “Professional Engineer” requirements.
- While there are, by comparison, fewer Engineers that are dual registered than those who are not, reducing our current high standards to simply provide for more competition in the political election process is not the answer. This would likely create a revolving door every four years. Another bad idea. It takes at least the first term for a county engineer to really gain the knowledge needed to be effective in that position.
- There is already a significant shortage of registered surveyors. I tried to hire one a couple of years ago through advertising, and in spite of the fact I had budgeted almost \$100,000 to cover salary and benefits, we didn’t get a single expression of interest. **Not one!**
- Needless to say, hiring a consulting firm to provide such service would cost substantially more, creating yet an additional financial burden on the county engineer’s currently underfunded operations.
- In summary; What this amendment does, simply, is to eliminate the current required **position** of “Surveyor” from the County Engineer’s current job qualifications, while still holding that County Engineer accountable to continue to perform all those required functions related to surveying as provided within Sections 315.09 and 315.25(A) of the O.R.C. in HB33. Are you kidding me?

With all due respect, as a practical, common sense matter, I personally vehemently oppose such legislation and request any/all language in HB33 that changes the qualifications required to run for the position as an elected County Engineer be removed. This issue should be addressed in a separate bill involving input from the County Engineers Association of Ohio and our 88 County Engineers.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John D. Farschman".

John D. Farschman, P.E., P.S.
Erie County Engineer

JDF/ceg

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