

Meigs County Engineer's Office

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To whom it may concern: HB33 Testimony

My name is Eugene Triplett and I have been Meigs County Engineer since 2001. I am 74 years old and would like to retire so I do understand the difficulty counties are having in finding candidates to take the job. It's not my responsibility to find my replacement, but I don't want to expose the people I have been working with for the past 22 ½ years to what I have seen happen to counties when they don't have a replacement.

I've been looking for someone to take my place for years and finally found someone a few months ago. I'm paying this individual about as much as I make which means he took a \$24,000 pay cut to come work with me. He just became a father and he wanted to do something for his county. He is not yet a licensed surveyor, so he is spending the next couple of years in our map office to gain surveying experience.

Licensed surveyors that have engineering degrees and could become dual registered are very happy making more than licensed engineers and aren't interested in putting out the effort.

Finding a licensed surveyor to do work in Meigs County is a serious problem. Attorneys and real estate people will tell you the same thing. I'm a licensed surveyor, but I can't have a private practice in Meigs County because I can't approve my own work.

Maybe in larger counties the Engineer's Office may have a staff with multiple engineers and surveyors, but in small rural counties this legislation will only create problems because we don't have engineers or surveyors working for us.

County Engineers manage multi-million dollar budgets, supervise substantial working staffs, approve descriptions of real estate parcels for transfer of properties, and perform many other duties and responsibilities. All of the County Engineers that I know are very good at their jobs. From my experience in trying to find my replacement, if the legislature wants to make it easier for counties to find qualified County Engineers, make the pay commensurate with private industry or even ODOT. Don't dumb down the requirements.

Sincerely,



Eugene Triplett P.E., P.S.