



Senate Finance Committee
Jeremiah Upp, P.E., P.S., Fairfield County Engineer
June 8, 2023

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

I am Jeremiah Upp, P.E., P.S., Fairfield County Engineer. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Sub. House Bill 33 – specifically: LOCCD33 County engineer qualifications.

Dual Registration requirements for County Engineers is already a cost-saving measure for Ohio local governments.

Ohio has a shortage of licensed Surveyors in general. It's not just a issue with dual licensed professionals. Ohio surveyors are in high demand. Hiring a licensed PS would cost a county \$200,000.00 a year or more. Almost half of Ohio counties do not have a licensed surveyor on staff. Half of Ohio's counties would equate to 8.8 million dollars annually to fill the PS requirement. Having the dual license requirement saves tax payers money and helps fund safety and other roadway projects.

Dual Registration help ensure that engineers elected as county engineers have the appropriate professional education and experience.

Ohio needs professionals with the proper background and qualifications to be County engineer. In Ohio, a "Professional Engineer" can hold degrees and an engineering license as a chemical, electrical, nuclear, mechanical, aeronautical or other area of specialization. There is no difference in PE license or status for the different engineering degrees or experience.

Dual registration as a Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor can only be obtained by a CIVIL engineer. Without this requirement a mechanical, electrical or any other PE could get elected and make decisions about bridges only a Civil Engineer is qualified to handle. The dual license requirement protects the public with the guarantee that the individual ultimately responsible for county roadways, bridges, drainage and other civil engineering matters has the correct education, experience and licensure for those duties.

Ohio Revised Code contains no less than 17 separate sections relating to surveying, all duties for which a county agency must ultimately be responsible.

Ohio counties combined the County surveyor requirements and County engineer requirements in the past. There are 17 sections of ORC that outline duties required of the County Engineer that contain a mandatory surveying component including road construction, ROW certification, property mapping and maintenance of the County Tax Map boundary data, monumentation of county sections, creation and recording of maps and property line changes. Ohio County engineers assist other local and state agencies with mapping support. These services provide needed support to airports, law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, 911 data, etc.

Ohio is Seeing a Significant Increase in the Number of Surveyor Applicants

CEAO participated in a recent task force convened to study the surveying profession and look for ways to broaden opportunities for individuals to enter the surveying profession.

A recent task force convened to study the surveying profession and address the shortage of surveyors in the profession. I'm early 2021 the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors adopted the task force's recommendations and implemented changes to address the dwindling numbers of licensed surveyors and dual licensed professionals. This provides an easier and shorter path for Civil engineers seeking

dual registration. Changes were also implemented to educational pathways, allowing more opportunity to become a professional surveyor and dual licensed professional.

The CEAO is committed to work on legislation to address these concerns without sacrificing safety and putting more burden on taxpayers. We strongly feel this topic is critical to public safety and needs additional discussion. As professional engineers we respectfully ask the language be removed.

ASK: This issue is worthy of a thoughtful discussion, not rushed in a budget bill. We respectfully ask to remove the language and CEAO commits to working to pass legislation addressing legislative concerns without sacrificing the safety and cost local taxpayers more money.