

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Connecticut

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
REGARDING COMMITTEE BILL 41
February 21, 2007

Good afternoon, my name is Theodore von Rosenvinge. I am a Professional Engineer and member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut, representing some 100 consulting engineering firms in the state, many of whom provide engineering services for state agencies and municipalities. Our organization supports the creation of a State Contracting Standards Board and a State Procurement Code.

A uniform procurement code for the state and for municipalities utilizing state funds could bring greater consistency and fairness to the selection of design professionals. Like the federal government, Connecticut statutes require DOT and DPW to select design professionals using a Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process. This system has been proven to be the most cost-effective method of procuring design services. Standardization of this method for all state agencies and municipalities utilizing state funds for their public works projects will result in a more fair and efficient system.

The definition of privatization contract in Section 1 is too vague. We would suggest that the definition include the layoff of state workers and their function performed by employees hired by the contractor. We also have concerns about the "privatization" language contained in Section 14 of the bill. The analysis required does not include some 30 expense categories that consultants report but which are not included in the state employee costs. A fair and reasonable analysis would have to take those inequalities into account.

Engineering firms play an essential role in designing our state's infrastructure. State and municipal agencies depend upon the innovation and expertise of private sector engineering firms. These firms provide flexibility to better handle increased workloads, allowing agencies to "ramp up" quickly to deliver projects in a timely manner and then "ramp down" just as quickly when the need diminishes. We look forward to working with the Contracting Standards Board to develop a system that is fair and efficient.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any of your questions.