



March 6, 2012

Senator Paul R. Doyle
Co-Chairman General Law Committee
Representative Joseph J. Taborsak
Co-Chairman General Law Committee

Subject: Raised Bill No. 269 – An Act Concerning Structural Engineers and Requiring Continuing Professional Education for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jason G. Racette, and I am a professional land surveyor licensed to practice in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine; I am the owner of Boundary Consulting Experts, LLC, a professional land surveying firm in New Britain, and I am the Second Vice President for the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors.

I am expressing my opinions here, today, strictly as a licensed professional, business owner, and member of the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors, not as a CALS officer. I shall begin by stating my support for the testimony given by Mr. Robert Dahn on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors, and would like to express my opposition to the continuing professional education requirement of Bill No. 269 for the following reasons:

1. The laws pertaining to the land surveying profession are designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. **Where have these laws fallen short of their intended purposes such that it is now necessary for the legislature to impose continuing professional education on the land surveying profession?**
2. **The State Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors is not prepared to handle additional responsibilities without additional staff.** It is my experience the State Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors does a fine job processing any matter related to licensing. However, issues beyond licensing take more time to process because of the Board's workload. **As of today, the Department of Consumer Protection's website lists 519 Licensed Land Surveyors and 166 combined Professional Engineer and Licensed Land Surveyor licensees. This is in addition to the 8,973 Professional Engineers listed on the DCP website.** All combined, the Board would be required to monitor 9,658 Licensed Land Surveyors and Professional Engineers. How is the Board going to audit continuing professional education without additional staff?

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3. **The bill as written does not identify any funding to support the monitoring of the continuing professional education by the State Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, thus becoming an unfunded mandate if passed into law.**
4. **A law which will affect all the members of a profession should be vetted through the professional society representing said professionals.** I am unaware of any input CALS has had related to this bill. The bill was first brought to my attention on March 1, 2012, when today's public hearing was scheduled.
5. **The requirement to earn fifteen hours per calendar year of continuing professional education is the equivalent of increasing the license fee for professional land surveyors by 263%.** The license fee for professional land surveyors in 2009, was \$225 per year; in 2010, the fee was increased by 27% to \$285 annually. If professional land surveyors are required to earn fifteen hours per calendar year of continuing professional education, and if the cost of each credit hour is approximately \$50, which would include the seminar registration fee, travel expenses (food, lodging, and fuel), as well as incidentals, then the legislature is essentially raising the annual cost of a professional land surveying license in the State of Connecticut by \$750, to \$1035. If the State is going to mandate such an increase, then a corresponding adjustment to the licensing fee is appropriate. One suggestion would be to renew professional land surveyor licenses biannually while maintaining the current fee structure. For comparison, the State of Maine charges \$225 biannually, with twenty-four hours of biannual continuing professional education, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts charges \$85 annually, with no continuing professional education requirement.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the professional land surveying community is an aging population. In the 1990's, the national average age of the professional land surveyor was well over 45 years. Mandating continuing professional education at this time, without further study or involvement of the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors, may risk putting many professional land surveyors out of business, a situation we would all like to avoid.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason G. Racette, PLS
Owner, Boundary Consulting Experts, LLC