

May 6, 2015



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Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
H-277
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attn: Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor

Re: SB 297-A
Letter in Support

I am writing in support of SB 297-A as approved by the Senate and introduced in the House. I have followed SB 297 through this legislative session and provided testimony to the Senate Business and Transportation Committee at its work session on 02/22/2015.

I am a registered Professional Engineer, licensed by the State of Oregon and have been practicing in Oregon for over 20 years. I am also licensed to practice engineering in Washington, California and Idaho. While serving as the President of the National Society of Professional Engineers in 2010, I had the opportunity to learn first-hand about licensure of Professional Engineers in the US and around the world. I also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the State Licensing Boards in many different states and from Canada, Japan and South Korea. With this background, I would like to voice my support for SB 297-A. I am able to speak to the Sections that address Professional Engineering and will let others speak to Sections addressing Land Surveying and Photogrammetric Mapping.

In my perspective, the primary focus of SB 297-A is to update the statutes that regulate Professional Engineering in Oregon to keep pace with changes in technology and to address changes in how the tests used to prove minimum competence are administered. As such, it is imperative that the statutes be updated as soon as possible.

As an example of this need, the existing statute (ORS 672) contains multiple sections that specify the minimum requirements and processes the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS) is to follow in order to screen applicants and to administer the tests used to ensure minimum competence to practice Professional Engineering. OSBEELS has not screened applicants nor administered a majority of these tests for several years now and there is no prospect that they will ever do so again.

While I do have a few concerns with some of the Sections contained in SB 297-A, I believe my concerns can be adequately addressed through the public rule-making process that is used to implement changes in the regulations.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail.

Thank you,

Michael L. Hardy, P.E., F.NSPE
OR PE 17,212
President