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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 of -5 Amendment

I am writing in support of SB 297-A as approved by the Senate and introduced in the House and also in support of the -5 Amendment. I have followed SB 297 through this legislative session and have provided testimony to the Senate Business and Transportation Committee at its work session on 02/22/2015 and also to the House Committee on Business and Labor at its previous public hearing on 05/06/15.

The reasons for my support of SB 297-A have already been entered into the public record via my testimony in the previous hearings. I would like to specifically address my reasons to support the -5 Amendment.

Changing “program” to “curriculum” in SB 297-A as the -5 amendment proposes, simply returns the revised ORS 672 sections to their current language. The existing statute reads:

*672.118 Qualifications for land surveying examination; rules; form of examination. (1) As minimum evidence of qualification for the fundamentals of land surveying examination, an applicant shall provide evidence of graduation in an approved land surveying or photogrammetric mapping **curriculum** of four years or more from a school or college approved by the State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying.*

Initially, I did not understand the difference between “program” and “curriculum” so I did not believe the change in terminology incorporated into SB 297-A was significant. Further research, including happening across this simple comparison:

*“Different degree or diploma courses available in various streams of study are labeled as **programs**, whereas as the content that is used to make up these study programs and the way it is administered is called **curriculum**.”*

The simple fact that there are very few degree or diploma programs of four years or more available in Land Surveying and Photogrammetric Mapping, as the revised statute would require, will create a significant impediment to becoming licensed in these fields. Reducing the number of persons eligible to offer these services will create a ripple effect throughout the Oregon economy as these services are required before new development or redevelopment can occur.

OSBEELS has been able to effectively regulate the practice of Land Surveying and Photogrammetric Mapping under the current “curriculum” language and there is no compelling reason to make the change to “program” at this time.

As a licensed Professional Engineer, I would go one step further in changing “program” back to “curriculum” on page 1 of the printed A-engrossed bill, line 12, however as there are substantially more well established “programs” of study offered in the various engineering disciplines, making this change is not as limiting as it is for the Land Surveyors or Photogrammetrists. The primary reason to return to the existing language would be to maintain consistency between the requirements for each profession, and because there is no compelling reason to make a change at this time.

672.105 Qualifications for engineering examination; rules; form of examination. (1) As minimum evidence of qualification for the fundamentals of engineering examination, an applicant shall provide evidence of graduation in an approved engineering curriculum of four years or more from a school or college approved by the State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying.

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