



March 12, 2014

Dear Senator/ House Member:

The engineering community is requesting your assistance in an important legislative matter. The American Council of Engineering Companies of South Carolina and the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers are supporting H. 3832 and S. 497. These bills update the Engineers' and Surveyors' Practice Act.

Engineers and surveyors seldom come to the State House with requests for passage of specific legislation affecting their livelihoods, although they frequently join others lobbying issues for the good of the state. These bills are important to registered engineers and surveyors.

These bills contain numerous changes updating the practice of engineering and surveying in South Carolina and bringing the South Carolina law into a closer alignment with the national model law promoted by NCEES (National Council of Examiners of Engineering and Surveying) headquartered in Clemson, SC.

For the most part, these changes are not controversial. You may recall an alteration to the Engineers' and Surveyors' Practice Act took place last year when a partial industry exemption was passed. This year there is a separate bill which passed the House in March further expanding the industry exemption.

Nevertheless, there is one section of this proposed practice act that has caught attention. This particular section deals with the selection of the professional services of registered engineers and surveyors. The engineering and surveying communities wholeheartedly endorse this method of selection because the process facilitates professional engineers and surveyors in providing the highest quality rather than the cheapest services. This selection process is in accordance with both federal and state procurement codes and is modeled after the current state architectural practice act.

This provision simply restricts engineers and surveyors from giving public bodies a price for their services in the initial stages of the procurement process. It does not direct any cities, counties, school districts or other political subdivisions to change their procurement practices. The bills, if passed, restrict engineers and surveyors from bidding their professional services because giving these bids would be a violation of their own practice act.

Registered engineers and surveyors urge you to pass their practice act this session including the selection of professional services section.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Jones".

Joe S. Jones  
Executive Director/Lobbyist ACEC-SC and SCSPE