

May 4, 2015



William Atkinson, P.E.
Chair
Board of Professional Engineering
Office of Professional Regulation
Vermont Secretary of State
89 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402



RE: Additional educational requirements for PE licensure



Dear Mr. Atkinson:



As members of the Licensing That Works Coalition, a coalition of engineering societies representing hundreds of engineers in Vermont and more than 300,000 engineers across the United States, we urge you, to **oppose any regulatory proposals requiring anyone seeking licensure as a professional engineer (PE) to obtain a master's degree in engineering or its equivalent.**

ASEE

Engineering Deans

Council

We believe that a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university should be the mandatory educational requirement for PE licensure as a professional engineer. The engineering degree is one of the most challenging programs of study that one may undertake at the university level. Consequently, a bachelor's degree – combined with passage of comprehensive examinations (i.e., Fundamentals of Engineering, Principles and Practice) and successful completion of a four-year internship – ensure that those seeking PE licensure have the necessary and expected knowledge, skills, and ethical standards.



Institute of Industrial Engineers



In addition, the Coalition supports continuing education throughout an individual's career, which supplements an engineer's degree with current technological information and training. Furthermore, the purpose of licensure is to "protect the health, safety and welfare of the public." There is no evidence that the present requirements for licensure are inadequate to assure this protection. The engineering profession already has the respect of the public at large, and is considered an honorable and prestigious field.



"Raising the bar" by requiring an additional 30 units of study could serve as a deterrent to students considering engineering as a career, thus **potentially reducing the number of individuals entering the field as fully qualified professionals and stunting Vermont's technological growth and competitiveness.**

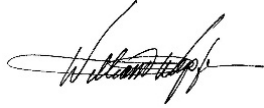


In short, we ask that you **vote against any "master's-or-equivalent," initiatives** should they come before you. Please contact Melissa Carl (carlm@asme.org, 202.785.7380) or Jim Scarborough

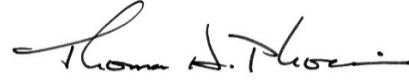
(jscarborough@ashrae.org, 202.833.1830) when you, your colleagues, or your staff need input or assistance in addressing this issue.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,



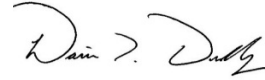
William Wepfer, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs
and Outreach
ASME



Thomas Phoenix, P.E.
President
ASHRAE



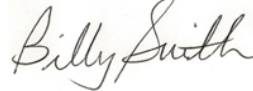
June Wispelwey
Executive Director
American Institute of Chemical
Engineers



Darrin Drollinger
Executive Director
American Society of Agricultural and
Biological Engineers



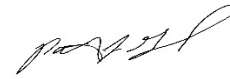
Louis Martin-Vega, Ph.D.
Chair, Deans Council
American Society for Engineering
Education



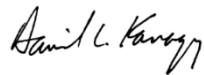
Billy Smith
Executive Director/ CEO
American Society of Plumbing
Engineers



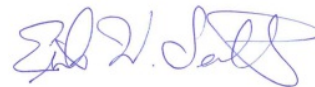
Don Greene
Chief Executive Officer
Institute of Industrial Engineers



Patrick Gouhin
Executive Director
International Society of Automation



David Kanagy, CAE
Executive Director
Society of Mining, Metallurgy &
Exploration Inc.



Erik Seither
Executive Director
Society of Naval Architects & Marine
Engineers