



October 17, 2016



James Valenti, P.E.
President
State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs
P.O. Box 45015
Newark, NJ 07101



RE: Additional educational requirements for PE licensure



American Society of
Agricultural and Biological Engineers

Dear Mr. Valenti:

ASEE

Engineering Deans

Council

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



We believe that a four-year bachelor’s degree from an EAC/ABET accredited college or university bachelor’s degree program should continue to be the mandatory baseline 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, that bachelor’s degree – combined with passage of two (2) comprehensive examinations (i.e., Fundamentals of Engineering, Principles and Practice), the passage of the New Jersey Law Examination, and the successful completion of a four-year internship under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer – has and will continue to ensure that those attaining PE licensure have the necessary and expected knowledge, skills, and ethical standards.



The Coalition supports continuing education throughout an individual’s career, which supplements an engineer’s degree and experience with current technological and regulatory information and training. Furthermore, the fundamental purpose of licensure as a professional engineer is to “protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.” There is no evidence that the present requirements for licensure – quality of engineering graduates, relevancy of the licensing examinations, effectiveness of the required experience under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer, the regular and required career-long continuing education, or the professional attributes of the practicing engineers themselves – have been or will be inadequate to assure this protection. The engineering profession earns and maintains the respect and trust of the public at large, and is considered an honorable and prestigious field.



Although the number of credit hours for some engineering degrees has decreased over time, there has been no drop in the scores for either the FE or the PE exam. The approach to educating an engineer has become more focused and efficient. Improved technology has also contributed significantly, i.e., computers have replaced slides rules.

“Raising the bar” by requiring an engineering master’s degree or an additional 30 units of study beyond the BS degree, will logically serve as a deterrent to students considering engineering as a career – particularly one connected to public service and infrastructure. This could **potentially reduce the number of individuals entering the field as fully qualified professionals and stunt New Jersey’s technological growth and competitiveness and the ability of the state, its agencies and municipalities to attract the needed engineering talent they require.**

New Jersey’s experience with professional land surveyors is likely to be repeated. After the legislation raising the educational requirement for obtaining a land surveying license passed, the number of applicants dropped significantly.

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,



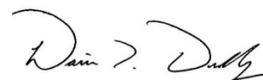
Keith Roe, P.E.
President
ASME



Timothy Wentz, P.E.
President
ASHRAE



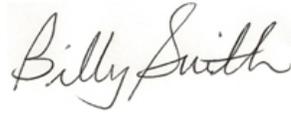
June Wispelwey
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Biological Engineers



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American Society for Engineering
Education



Billy Smith
Executive Director/ CEO
American Society of Plumbing
Engineers



Timothy Licitra
Executive Vice President
Illuminating Engineering Society



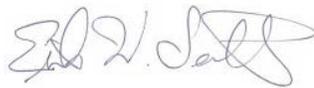
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