



To: Senate Commerce Committee
From: Scott Uhl, P.E.
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
Date: February 19, 2019
Re: Opposition to SB 168

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer remarks regarding Senate Bill 168.

I am Scott Uhl, a Licensed Professional Engineer from Topeka. I am here today representing the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers.

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) represents the individual licensed engineers across the state. For over 100 years, KSPE has worked to promote engineering and public safety by delivering professional engineering services and encouraging licensure, in addition to advocating legislation and public policy for the betterment of human welfare and the industry.

KSPE opposes specific sections of the bill that can put our members at a disadvantage. Specifically, Section 11, subsection D exempts Professional Engineers licensed in the State of Kansas. KSPE agrees with this, as Licensed Professional Engineers are already regulated by the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions. They are graduates of accredited college or university engineer programs and must pass comprehensive exams before they are licensed as Engineers in Training. Following four years of professional experience and a successful completion of a second exam, they become Professional Engineers. They must continue their education by completing not less than 30 hours of Professional Development every two years.

However, we are concerned with the current language in Section 12, as it does not reiterate the Act does not apply to the exempted entities as noted in Section 11. If this bill is worked by the committee, we respectfully request clarifying language in Section 12 to avoid any ambiguity that may come in the future.

We are also concerned with Section 14, which does not allow Licensed Professional Engineers to use the term "home inspector". KSPE believes this language undermines Licensed Professional Engineers, as they are well qualified to perform this scope of work. There are many Professional Engineers in this state that perform inspections of commercial, industrial and government buildings. Typically, they are trained as Structural Engineers, Architectural Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, or Civil Engineers and have years of experience conducting this kind of work. More importantly, the Professional Code of Conduct for Professional Engineers prohibits them from practicing in areas where they are not qualified by education or experience. In addition, the National Academy of Building Inspection Engineers has set the position that it opposes additional licensure requirements to Licensed Professional Engineers and Licensed architects for home inspections.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to voice our thoughts and concerns.

Respectfully,
Scott Uhl, P.E.