



May 11, 2015

Dear ASCE and NSPE Members:

On behalf of the Vermont Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (VT-ASCE) and the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers (VSPE), we would like to express our appreciation to the Vermont Board of Professional Engineering for advancing discussion regarding the need for increased educational requirements for civil engineers who seek professional licensure in the future.

At the Board's meeting on Thursday, May 7, members voted not to support increased education for future licensure of civil engineers in Vermont. Although we are disappointed that the Board did not vote to endorse this proposal at this time, we believe that this is an important matter of public interest that affects the continued health, safety and welfare of Vermont residents, and therefore look forward to the opportunity for future consideration.

VSPE and VT-ASCE have been active in supporting this needed update to our state's engineering licensure law. Dedicated volunteers have put in many hours in support of this effort, and they will continue to work to educate the Board, legislators, and other stakeholders on this important issue. We want to personally thank the members of the joint committee for their work to advance the civil engineering profession and safeguard the public health, safety and welfare of Vermont's citizens.

We, as civil engineers, believe we have well-informed insights on how our profession can best protect the public. Over the past 15 years, ASCE and NSPE have engaged broad segments of the profession to define the necessary Body of Knowledge for civil engineers and professional engineers, respectively. Each concluded that this Body of Knowledge cannot be attained without advanced education. The Vermont sections of both ASCE and VSPE (which represent the vast majority of licensed professional engineers in the state); the civil engineer on the Board, Vice Chair Brad Aldrich; and Bob Krebs, a civil engineer and member of the state legislator; all testified strongly in support of this initiative.

While Vermont is missing the opportunity to be a leader for our profession by failing to address this issue now, it is our hope that the Board of Professional Engineering will continue to consider the need for increased education requirements for civil engineers and will eventually vote to support it. This is an issue that needs to be addressed, and the legislature will eventually have to take action.

Thanks to all of you who worked to support this proposal. Despite the Board's action, we will continue to speak in favor of increasing the education requirements for future licensed civil engineers in Vermont. We have attached some background on our position, and we look forward to working with all stakeholders to advance this issue with the Board and the legislature in the future.

Regards,

Vermont Section ASCE

Bernie Gagnon, PE
Vermont Section President

Vermont Society of Professional Engineers

Brian Beaudoin, PE
VSPE President