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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs (SC-LEUA)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Assembly Bill 181

Relating to: continuing education for architects, landscape architects, professional engineers, designers of engineering systems, and land surveyors.

By Representatives Wieckert, A. Ott, Mursau, Albers, Van Roy, Townsend and Bies; cosponsored by Senators Lassa and Cowles.

November 02, 2007 Referred to Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs.

December 4, 2007 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Coggs, Wirsch, Lehman, Grothman
and A. Lasee.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Steve Wieckert — Representative
- Dale Chlebowski — Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers
- Lisa Van Horn — Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors
- Pamela Linn — WI ASLA
- Robert Reider — WSLS
- Rasheem Styczinski — Joint Licensing Board
- William Babcock — Wisconsin Society of Architects
- Francis Thousand — Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors

Appearances Against

- Sam Rockweiler

Appearances for Information Only

- Robert Schaefer — State Engineering Association

Registrations For

- Tim Wellnitz — Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing
- Thomas Walker — Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association
- Carol Godiksen — American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin
- William O'Connor — Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors
- Julie Lassa — Senator

Registrations Against

- James Rosenmerkel

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

December 4, 2007

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (5) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman, Grothman
and A. Lasee.

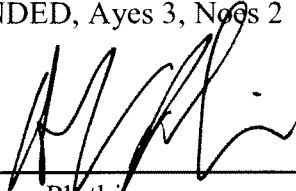
Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Wirch, seconded by Senator Lehman that
Assembly Bill 181 be recommended for concurrence.

Ayes: (3) Senators Coggs, Wirch and Lehman.

Noes: (2) Senators Grothman and A. Lasee.

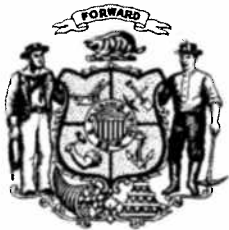
CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 2



Adam Plotkin
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Vote Record
Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Date: Tue. Dec. 4, 2007

Moved by: Wirch

Seconded by: Lehman

AB 181 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

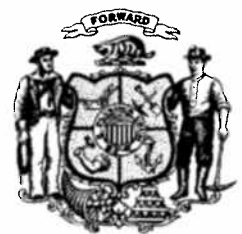
Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator John Lehman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Alan Lasee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Northeast Wisconsin Chapter
OF THE
Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors



September 29, 2006

State Representative Steve Wieckert
57th Assembly District
Room 16 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

AB 181
?

Dear Mr. Wieckert:

At the August Board of Directors meeting of the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors, we discussed the topic of implementing requirements for continuing education relative to the profession of land surveying. While we realize that the Department of Regulation & Licensing and state legislators like yourself are at the beginning of discussions to make this requirement become a reality, we would like to let you know that you have the full and unanimous support of the 2006 elected Board of Directors of the Northeast Chapter.

If there is anything that we as a group and profession can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

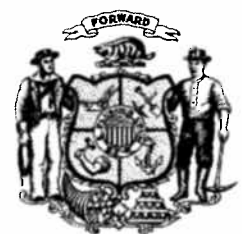
Sincerely,

Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the
Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors


Joseph W. Lett Jr., RLS
Chapter President



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





AIA Wisconsin
A Society of The American Institute of Architects

Dec - 2006

AB 181
?

2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Members of AIA Wisconsin have an interest in numerous public policy issues being addressed by local, state and federal officials. This interest extends beyond proposed legislation and administrative rules that would directly affect the practice of architecture and the design and construction industry to include policies that will shape Wisconsin's overall quality of life, economic climate, natural environment and public health and safety.

The following provides a summary of AIA Wisconsin positions on various issues that may be addressed during the 2007-2008 session of the Wisconsin Legislature.

- **State Budget & Taxes**

State legislators will face many difficult choices as they develop a state budget for the 2007-09 biennium. A deliberate, balanced and open budget process will be important. Proposals to reduce local property taxes without increasing state taxes, for example, will confront the hard fiscal realities of a very tough budget situation. AIA Wisconsin is opposed to proposals that would expand the sales tax to architectural and other professional services. Such a tax increase would place Wisconsin firms at a competitive disadvantage, impede economic expansion by increasing front-end development costs, hit small businesses the hardest and create significant administrative and compliance problems.

- **State Building Program**

AIA Wisconsin believes it is important to adequately fund the state building program and address the growing backlog of necessary maintenance projects. The state is the largest building owner in Wisconsin, with over 6,200 buildings. This represents a significant investment by state taxpayers that deserves to be protected and maintained. The estimated backlog of state building maintenance needs amounts to over \$1.2 billion, with about 60% of this backlog involving UW System facilities. The state building program provides direct economic development benefits, with each dollar of construction spending estimated to generate \$2.20 in economic activity. It also enables the state to create facilities for new research that encourages future economic development in Wisconsin.

- **Preservation of State Capitol**

AIA Wisconsin and its Historic Resources Committee support a program of advocacy for the preservation of the State Capitol. With the recently completed \$145 million restoration and rehabilitation of the State Capitol, it becomes imperative that the current state of preservation not be compromised by the lack of a regular maintenance strategy and adequate resources to keep the building's systems fully functional and its furnishings, finishes and artwork properly cleaned and in good repair. The State Capitol is more than just another state office building.

- **Sales Tax Exemption for Construction Materials**

AIA Wisconsin supports legislation that would provide a simple and straightforward process for allowing a sales and use tax exemption for construction materials used in municipal, county and school district projects. It is possible under current law to avoid paying sales taxes on such materials through direct purchase; and the vast majority of local governments and school districts take advantage of this opportunity when they undertake construction projects. However, existing state administrative requirements make compliance unnecessarily cumbersome, complex and expensive.

321 S. Hamilton Street
Madison, WI 53703-4000
Telephone 608.257.8477
Fax 608.257.0242
Email aiaw@aiaw.org
URL www.aiaw.org

2007 State Legislative Agenda

- **Licensure: Continuing Education**

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) believes that all architects should maintain a professional standard of competence and supports lifelong learning and continuing education programs to supplement active practice. Continuing education is required for individual architects to maintain their AIA membership. AIA Wisconsin supports enabling legislation, such as 2005 LRB-4004/1, that would allow the Architects Section of the Joint Examining Board to promulgate rules to require continuing education for license renewal in Wisconsin. Currently, 35 states require continuing education for architects to renew their license, including the neighboring states of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota.

- **Licensure: Education & Experience Requirements**

AIA Wisconsin supports legislation that would adjust the minimum experience and education requirements for initial licensure as an architect. Currently, in addition to passing a national architecture registration examination, Wisconsin candidates must have a minimum of seven years of qualifying education and work experience. These education and experience requirements fall well below nationally accepted standards. Proposed legislation previously recommended by the Architects Section of the Joint Examining Board (1999 LRB-0734) would require graduates of an accredited architecture school to have at least three years of practical experience and applicants without an accredited degree to have at least ten years of practical experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Most states currently require a professional degree from an accredited school of architecture, without any alternative path to licensure.

- **State Building Code & Plan Review**

AIA Wisconsin supports a statewide building code developed with the active involvement of architects and other design and construction industry professionals. The current Wisconsin Commercial Building Code represents a significant transition for Wisconsin by adopting national model building codes, including the International Building Code. AIA Wisconsin members are participating with other interested individuals on numerous code advisory councils that develop recommendations for regularly updating and improving the state building code. For the effective, efficient and consistent enforcement of state code requirements, AIA Wisconsin also supports state review of building plans.

- **Sustainable Design, Livable Communities & Other Issues**

The following are examples of other public policy issues of interest to AIA Wisconsin members:

- AIA Wisconsin supports state programs and initiatives that encourage **sustainable and energy efficient building design, construction and operation**.
- AIA Wisconsin supports state resources and programs that encourage **livable communities and public participation in local comprehensive planning**.
- AIA Wisconsin supports state programs and tax policies that provide incentives for the **preservation of historic buildings**.
- AIA Wisconsin supports **qualifications-based selection (QBS)** of architects for public building projects.
- AIA Wisconsin supports **pre-construction lien law** legislation to clarify that architectural plans and specifications constitute improvements to land.
- Representing 1,500 architects and allied design professionals working with hundreds of small firms, AIA Wisconsin supports state initiatives to assure the **availability of affordable health insurance** coverage for Wisconsin small businesses.

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Wisconsin

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin

3 S Pinckney Street, Suite 800 Madison, WI 53703
Tel: 608-257-9223 Fax: 608-257-0009 www.acecwi.org

the business voice of the Wisconsin consulting engineering industry

January 25, 2007

Representative Steve Wieckert
Wisconsin State Assembly
P O Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

AB 181

RE: LRB-0857/1, Continuing Education Coordinator

Dear Representative Wieckert:

ACEC WI supports your legislation relating to continuing education for design professionals. It is an opportunity to move our position on continuing education forward. We support the enabling language for the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors to allow it to establish continuing education requirements for these licensed professionals.


The ACEC WI Board of Directors adopted our position, relating to mandatory continuing education, in June 2005. It states:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin (ACEC WI) believes all professional engineers should maintain a professional standard of competence. ACEC WI supports lifelong learning and continuing education programs to supplement active practice. One of ACEC WI's strategic plan goals is to provide a strong educational program focused on specific member needs.

ACEC WI's member firms pledge to uphold high professional and ethical standards. ACEC WI supports enabling legislation that would allow the Engineers Section of the Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors to promulgate rules to require continuing education for license renewal. Requiring proof of current competence is necessary for Wisconsin to keep pace with the rest of the nation.

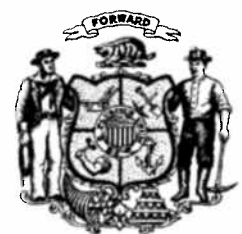
Thank you for your support of our industry and this very important legislation to further lifelong learning. Consulting engineers provide value to this state and the educational component further allows our members to withhold their pledge to protect the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,


Carol Godiksen
Executive Director



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors

Affiliated with American Congress on Surveying and Mapping
 2128 Broken Hill Road • Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188
 Phone: 262.549.1533 Fax: 262.549.1656
 Email: hscwsls@aol.com
 Website: www.wsls.org



Rep. Steve Wiecek
 Room 16 West
 P.O. Box 8953
 State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53708

Re: LRB 0857/1

AB 181

Dear Rep. Wiecek:

On behalf of the board of directors of the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors, I wish to thank you for your past willingness to support legislation that would amend Chapter 443 of the Statutes. As you know, it would grant rulemaking authority to the Department of Regulation and Licensing to establish continuing education requirements for registered land surveyors.

This is to advise you that our Society board at its January 26 meeting renewed its resolve to pursue this legislation in the coming months. We are pleased to learn that you have already resumed your efforts on our behalf and that of the Department of Regulation and Licensing. Since the land surveyor section of the Registration Board functions jointly with the architects, engineers and landscape architects, we trust that you'll also gain support from their members and from their sponsors in the legislature.

The Society is an association of approximately 1100 members, with about 750 licensed to practice in the state, while the remaining are technicians, students and others interested in the profession. It may interest you to know that Wisconsin is one of fewer than ten states that do not now require mandatory continuing education for land surveyors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any assistance in expediting this legislation. Also standing by to assist is our legislative committee chairman Francis Thousand (608) 821-8530 and our lobbyist, Bill O'Connor (608) 255-7277, who will be in contact with you in the next week or two.

Sincerely,

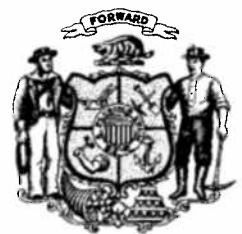
Harold S. Charlier

Harold S. Charlier
 Executive Director

Copy: Atty. William P. O'Connor



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



DEGEN-FOAT SURVEYING INC.
100 S. SECOND ST.
WATERFORD, WI 53185
PHONE 262-534-5404 / FAX 262-534-2022

March 5, 2007

Rep. Steve Wieckert
Room 16 West
PO Box 8953
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

AB 181
?


RE: Chapter 443 & Continuing Education

Dear Representative Wieckert,

I am the State Representative for the Southeast Chapter of the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors. On January 26, 2007, at the Board of Directors Meeting for the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors, Lisa Van Horn, President, had asked the Chapter Reps to submit letters regarding approval of Continuing Education.

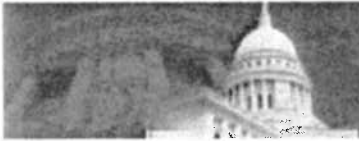
Our Chapter met on February 21, 2007. There were fourteen members in attendance. A vote was taken for or against continuing education, of which thirteen were in favor and one against.

Respectfully submitted,

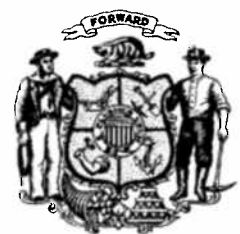

Gary B. Foat
State Rep SE Chapter WSLs

CC: Lisa Van Horn

DH



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



AIA Wisconsin

A Society of The American Institute of Architects

April 24, 2007



State Representative Steve Wieckert
Wisconsin State Assembly
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

RE: CONTINUING EDUCATION—2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 181

Dear Rep. Wieckert:

It is our understanding that the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry has scheduled a public hearing for May 2 on 2007 Assembly Bill 181. I am contacting you on behalf of AIA Wisconsin, the state society of The American Institute of Architects, to encourage you to support and recommend passage of this proposed legislation. It would allow the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors to establish continuing education requirements for license renewal in Wisconsin.

AIA Wisconsin supports this proposed enabling legislation. Currently, 35 states require continuing education for architects to renew their license, including the neighboring states of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. Michigan has enacted enabling legislation.

Wisconsin is one of four states currently considering this type of legislation. Thinking positively and assuming that AB 181 is enacted, the rule-making process will provide the opportunity for a great deal of additional public input and legislative review prior to any continuing education requirements becoming effective.

Because new materials, products, technologies and delivery systems are constantly changing the way in which buildings are designed and constructed, The American Institute of Architects (AIA) supports lifelong learning and continuing education programs to supplement active practice. In fact, continuing education has been required for individual architects to maintain their AIA membership since 1995.

Thank you for taking our position on AB 181 into consideration. We hope you will support this continuing education enabling legislation. With over 1,500 individual members, AIA Wisconsin represents architects in private practice, business, industry, education and government.

Cordially,

AIA Wisconsin

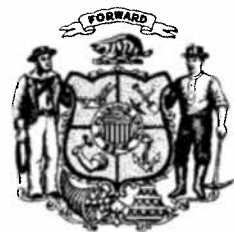
William M. Babcock, Hon. AIA
Executive Director

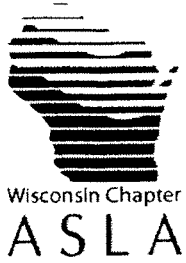
321 S. Hamilton Street
Madison, WI 53703-4000
Telephone 608.257.8477
Fax 608.257.0242
Email aiaw@aiaw.org
URL www.aiaw.org

Thank you for
sponsoring this
legislation!



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Rep. Steve Wieckert
Room 16 West
P.O. Box 8953
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

May 11, 2007

RE: Assembly Bill 181

**WISCONSIN
CHAPTER**

**AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS**

P.O. BOX 851
MADISON, WI
53701-0851

www.wiasla.com

Dear Representative Wieckert.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WIASLA) supports Assembly Bill 181 that you have gratefully sponsored. Providing continuing education requirements for Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designer of Engineering Systems, and Land Surveyors enhances the quality of services these professionals provide to the residences of Wisconsin.

As you may be aware, Wisconsin Landscape Architects are currently working on a Bill to introduce Practice Act to our current Title Law for licensure. This is an important step to providing the highest quality of professionalism. Currently there are 40 states with Practice Laws and most of the 10 remaining in the final stages of their approvals.

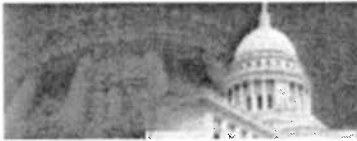
Together with Assembly Bill 181 our Practice Act will introduce new and exciting opportunities for Landscape Architects in Wisconsin. There are over 225 members of the WIASLA and numerous other Landscape Architects in our state who benefit greatly from expanding our knowledge base. Strong professional ethics is the foundation of Landscape Architecture.

Founded in 1899 by Fredrick Law Olmsted Jr. in recognition of his father, Fredrick Law Olmsted's found profession, over 16,000 ASLA members celebrate our diverse and unique profession.

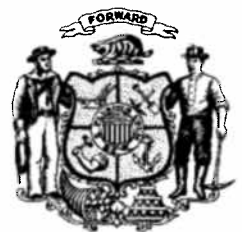
Thank you for introducing and sponsoring AB 181 for the continuing growth of our profession!

Best regards,

Daniel J. Williams, ASLA
WIASLA President



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**Wisconsin Society of
Professional Engineers**

May 29, 2007

r.e. 2007 AB181 and AB69

Robb Peebles
209 Yarrow Hill Dr
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

The Honorable Steve Wieckert
Rm. 16 W State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Dear Representative Wieckert:

As I testified at the public hearing regarding 2007 AB181 and AB69, as president of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE) I am conveying the society's support of these bills. WSPE represents the licensed Professional Engineer in Wisconsin. Our mission is to promote the ethical, competent, and licensed practice of engineering, and to enhance the professional, social, and economic well being of our members.

WSPE is part of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) which is the recognized voice and advocate of licensed Professional Engineering in every state of the US and several territories. The first two canons of the profession's code of ethics are: 1) for engineers to Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and 2) for engineers to perform services only in areas of their competence.

Regarding Continuing Professional Competency, NSPE has adopted a Professional Policy stating:

It is the policy of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) to endorse the efforts of the professional/technical societies, engineering schools, and industry in the areas of continuing education and to support mandatory continuing professional competency for engineers and land surveyors wherein such programs provide for uniformity and comity among licensing jurisdictions.

NSPE endorses the appropriate section of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Model rules for Continuing Professional Competence and urges its state societies to assist state licensure boards in implementing these rules. (Reference: NCEES Model Rules for Continuing Professional Competence)

The Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers Board of Directors has voted to endorse 2007 Assembly Bill 181. WSPE has not yet adopted a detailed position on rule implementation such as NSPE did in specifying the NCEES Model rules, but WSPE intends to provide input and guidance towards this and believes any rule decisions should come in large part from the people within the profession that WSPE represents.

Regarding licensing requirements for professional engineers, the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers Board of Directors has also voted to endorse 2007 Assembly Bill 69.

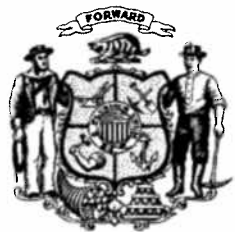
Thank you.

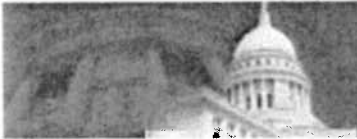
Sincerely,

Robb Peebles, P.E.
WSPE President

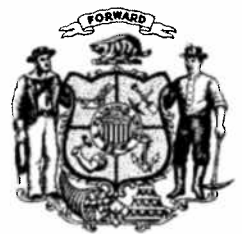


WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Plotkin, Adam

From: Brad Volker [bvolker@cooperengineering.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 9:19 AM
To: Sen.Coggs
Subject: AB181- continuing education for architects/engineers

Hello Senator Coggs and staff:

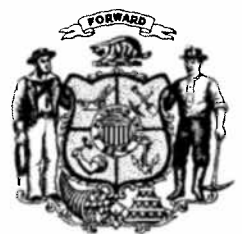
It is my understanding that AB181 passed in the Assembly, has been forwarded to the senate, and has been referred to your committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs. Although opinions vary I am in favor of this legislation. I would appreciate any feedback you might be able to provide on a timetable for your committee and the senate acting on this legislation.

Thank you,

Brad Volker, P.E.
Rice Lake, Wisconsin
ph. 715-234-0520



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Plotkin, Adam

From: TOM WALTHER [Tom.Walther@co.eau-claire.wi.us]
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2007 12:18 PM
To: Sen.Coggs; Sen.Grothman; Sen.Lasee; Sen.Lehman; Sen.Wirch
Subject: AB-181 Hearing

Attachments: Wis Continue Ed. law letter 10-07.doc



Wis Continue Ed.
law letter 10...

Gentlemen,

I have heard that your Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs Committee will be conducting a public hearing on the above bill on December 4, 2007. Please take a moment to review the attached letter on this topic and if possible consider entering it into the record as public input.

Your consideration and support would be appreciated.

Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F. ASCE
Region 3 Director
Eau Claire, Wisconsin



American Society of Civil Engineers

Highway Commissioner
Eau Claire County
2000 Spooner Avenue
Altoona, WI 54720
Phone: (715) 839-2952
E-mail:
tom.walther@co-eau-claire.wi.us

Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F.ASCE
Region 3 Director

November 29, 2007

TO: Members
Senate Labor, Elections & Urban Affairs Committee

RE: AB-181
Continuing Education Requirements
For Professional Engineers

I am a registered professional engineer practicing and residing within Eau Claire County. I also happen to be serving as Region 3 Director of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). I am writing this letter from this dual perspective.

I see that your committee has scheduled a public hearing on AB-181 on December 4, 2007. I strongly urge you to vote in support of this bill.

Wisconsin already has continuing education requirements for a number of licensed professions and occupations ranging from various medical practitioners to accountants. It only seems fitting that the professionals who design the critical infrastructure of our state should also be required to have continuing education. The people of Wisconsin deserve to be assured that those professionals who design, construct and even maintain our buildings, bridges and drinking water systems are using the most up to date knowledge base to protect the health and welfare of our citizens.

ASCE Policy 425 titled Uniform Continuing Professional Development strongly endorses professional development and continuing education for professional engineers. Thirty-two other states already have continuing education requirements on the books for professional engineers and other design



Civil Engineers - Designers and Builders of the Quality of Life



American Society of Civil Engineers

Highway Commissioner
Eau Claire County
2000 Spooner Avenue
Altoona, WI 54720
Phone: (715) 839-2952
E-mail:
tom.walther@co-eau-claire.wi.us

Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F.ASCE
Region 3 Director

professionals. Wisconsin should be next in line to adopt this requirement.

Again, I strongly encourage you to support the adoption of AB-181.

Sincerely,

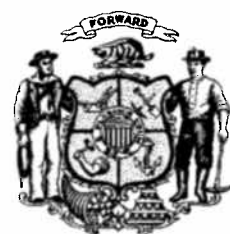
Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F. ASCE
Region 3 Director



Civil Engineers - Designers and Builders of the Quality of Life



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Plotkin, Adam

From: Bob Beilfuss [bbeilfuss@village.germantown.wi.us]
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2007 10:20 AM
To: Sen.Grothman; Sen.Coggs; Sen.Wirch; Sen.Lehman; Sen.Lasee
Subject: AB-181

Gentlemen,

I understand that Assembly Bill 181 is going to be in public hearing this coming Tuesday, and I just wanted to voice my support for this bill. I think continuing education is extremely important in these days of emerging technologies and ever changing laws. The professionals in this state (Land Surveyors, Engineers, Architects etc.) need to be kept up to speed and this bill will see that it happens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

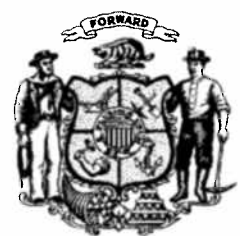
Bob Beilfuss,
Wisconsin Registered Land Surveyor

Village Surveyor
Village of Germantown Engineering Dept
N112 W17001 Mequon Road
Germantown, Wisconsin 53022

262-250-4720 Office
262-253-8255 Fax
bbeilfuss@village.germantown.wi.us

Duty, Honor, Country
God Bless the US Armed Forces



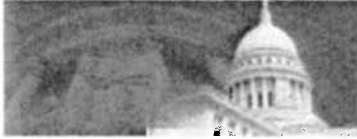


Plotkin, Adam

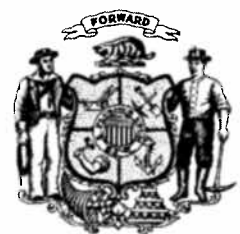
From: Gene Wadzinski [ldevl@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2007 12:00 PM
To: Sen.Coggs
Subject: AB 181

I am a Registered Land Surveyor in Wisconsin. I am in favor of AB 181 Continuing education for Land Surveyors. Please lend your support to pass this bill.

Thank you,
Gene Wadzinski



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Sam Rockweiler, PE

806 Woodward Drive, Madison WI 53704

(608) 246-8345

November 30, 2007

Senator Spencer Coggs
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
Room 123 South, State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Coggs:

Thank you for this opportunity to present my strenuous opposition to **Assembly Bill 181**.

With all due respect to the proponents of this Bill, including any who are fellow Professional Engineers, I am strongly opposed to implementing any form of mandatory continuing education for Professional Engineers who have met both the academic and work-experience requirements in section 443.04 of the Statutes. Those requirements already have a truly outstanding record of establishing an adequate, professional-level threshold above which licensed individuals can and should be trusted to make decisions that are essential for protecting the safety, health, welfare, property, and lives of others.

In my over 32 years of service to the State of Wisconsin as a Professional Engineer, in a variety of regulatory programs, I have seen countless mandatory continuing education courses and credits applied to a multitude of categories – from building inspectors, to plumbers, to soil testers, and so on – and far too many of those credits accomplished little or nothing other than adding up to some arbitrary number in a magic category on a faceless bureaucrat's score sheet.

There may be some occupations or trades where the entry requirements are so simple and easy that some kind of supplemental hand-holding in the form of ongoing, mandatory education is needed. But since Professional Engineers, upon becoming registered, can be trusted to decide for themselves where they are qualified enough to, on their own, make vital life-safety determinations that other people's lives and livelihoods depend upon, then those Engineers generally should likewise continue to be trusted to make that decision throughout their careers. And, those Engineers know, better than any well-intentioned bureaucrat, what kind of additional education they might need to continue to do their work well – as technologies and other factors evolve in our local, regional, national, and global society.

In short, my experience clearly tells me that Professional Engineers learn more about what they need to know by pursuing the professional work which they are dedicated to, than they would by diverting their finite resources away from that work to inately do whatever is less knowingly decreed by others as being better.

If there is concern that one or more of the options for becoming registered as a Professional Engineer are no longer adequate, such as those that rely only on experience, in contrast to those that rely on a combination of rigorous academic achievements and qualifying experience, then the registration requirements should be modified accordingly – such as through the changes that are currently proposed in Assembly Bill 69 – rather than saddling and hamstringing the currently

(Continued on reverse side)

practicing professionals with well-intended but misguided and counterproductive rigmarole that would probably include ongoing onerous increases in license fees to pay for it.

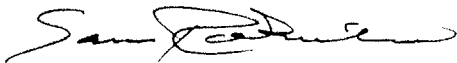
Similarly, if there is concern that disciplinary oversight of practicing Professional Engineers by the Department of Regulation and Licensing has become too lax or inadequate, for whatever reason, then that disciplinary oversight should be strengthened, rather than further burdened or diluted by a need to begin administering unnecessary continuing education requirements.

I realize that you may hear from other Professional Engineers who instead desire some kind of mandatory continuing education for their particular sector of engineering, such as highway construction that depends on federal funding. If that happens, perhaps some accommodation can be developed which is tailored specifically to those desires but which does not mandate continuing education for all other Professional Engineers.

I also realize that you may hear from one or more Associations which may support AB 181 and which represent some of the Professional Engineers in Wisconsin. In that event, please carefully consider how representative those Associations are. For example, although the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers has about 1,000 members, the registry of the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing currently lists over 19,000 active Professional Engineers in Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint on this important issue, and please let me know if you would like any follow-up information.

Sincerely,

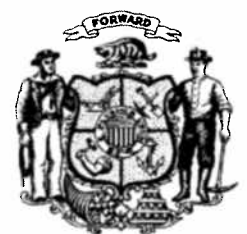


Sam Rockweiler, PE

c: Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



FILE

Francis H. Ogden
710 Valley View Drive
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022
Phone: (715) 425-6956
Facsimile: (715) 426-7962
E-Mail: fogden@pressenter.com
Cell: (715) 821-5623

December 2, 2007

Professional Engineer
Registered Land Surveyor

Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair
Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Sent by Fax to (608) 282-3546

Please forward this letter to all committee members and enter it in the hearing record.

Re: AB 181

Dear Chairman Coggs and Committee Members;

I am licensed in Wisconsin as a Professional Engineer and Land surveyor since 1965.
I oppose this legislation.

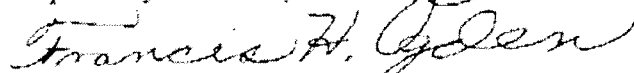
The basic purpose of licensing is to protect the public from incompetent practice. Vigorous enforcement of the current regulations will do that.

AB 181 was introduced at the request of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors, which is also known as the A-E Joint Board. Tim Wellnitz, Bureau Director, Bureau of Business & Design Professions, Department of Regulation and Licensing told me by e-mail that the A-E Joint Board believes continuing education would help keep members of the profession up to date with changes in the profession and help to insure professional competence. That is why the legislation was requested. I was also told that no study was conducted on this issue.

I do not agree with the A-E Joint Board. I think enforcing the current regulations is all that is necessary to protect the public from incompetent practice. Professionals are continuously educating themselves, formally and informally, as they do their work. Competence is the issue. Documenting continuing education will have no affect on competence.

I recommend that you reject this legislation and direct the A-E Joint Board to do a study and determine if lack of professional competence is a current problem before making further requests for legislation on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Francis H. Ogden, PE 8624 and LS 882