



STATE OF IDAHO

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

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March 24, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
900 Court St., NE, S-411
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Beyer:

I am writing in regard to Senate Bill 885 as it relates to licensing professional engineers. Idaho, like Oregon is a member of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) and as such we encourage cross border trade of engineering services. In 2008, at the request of Idaho legislators involved in PNWER, Idaho adopted language similar to what is printed in SB 885. After careful consideration of the manner Canadian engineers were educated and licensed, it was determined the licensure process used in Canada was substantially equivalent to that which is used in most states, including Idaho. The major difference is they do not require the passage of technical examinations. Instead, they rely on a more rigorous college education curriculum and a more stringent mentoring process. As a result, the Idaho legislature enacted a provision that gives the licensing board discretion to waive prescriptive education and examination credentials for those from other states or countries who have held a license in good standing for eight (8) or more years. The primary purpose of adopting this language is to remove unnecessary barriers to cross border licensure between states and the provinces of Canada. After adopting this language, the Idaho licensing board, with the concurrence of the Idaho legislature adopted a rule that prescribed manner in which this new authority is implemented. The Idaho board also adopted a policy (attached) that outlines how the laws and rules are implemented.

The law change adopted in 2008 is a provision that benefits applicants from states and provinces and is used extensively to enable qualified engineers to obtain a license in Idaho. Idaho currently has 18 engineers with active licenses issued by comity with Canada. We have never had a complaint or concern expressed regarding the competency of the engineering work performed, or the ethical practice of Canadian engineers. The Oregon board of licensure should see similar benefits if a provision of law is adopted in Oregon such as is described in SB 885. If it would please the committee for me to testify via phone on Monday, March 27 during the hearing, I am eager to participate. I can be reached at (208) 332-1783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Simila".

Keith Simila, P.E.
Executive Director

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Attachment