

**TESTIMONY OF DAVID JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

In Opposition to LD 612

**"An Act To Recognize Occupational Licenses and Certifications from Other
States To Attract New Residents and Businesses to Maine"**

Public Hearing: March 16, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, thank you for the opportunity to speak today regarding LD 612.

The State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers supports efforts to increase licensure mobility for all qualified professional engineers, as you may remember from the legislation that we introduced earlier this session.

The biggest problem with LD 612 is that it treats all licensure programs the same, but the impact of a failure in professional engineering is not the same as a failure in other programs. If a bridge collapses or natural gas infrastructure fails, the consequences can be catastrophic.

As I mentioned recently before this committee, we can license most qualified individuals within days and we have licensed applicants who clearly meet the national licensure standard in as little as twenty minutes.

There is already an agreed-upon national standard that allows professional engineers reciprocal licensure in every state. However, some states also have unique licensure standards that are not acceptable in any other state, such as Wisconsin's licensure by diploma, where if you graduate from a Wisconsin school you are automatically licensed to practice in that state. No other state accepts that license. There are other variations unique to other states, and LD 612 would not permit us to refuse licensure to engineers that our statute does not currently accept as qualified.

LD 612 fails to recognize that not all engineers are professional engineers. The fact that someone is not licensed does not prevent them from earning a living. Up to eighty percent of engineers never get licensed. You only need to be licensed if you are in responsible charge or are submitting documents to public agencies. To

protect the public, we want to be sure that the people in charge meet the qualification standards.

Finally, LD 612 allows other states and most concerning, under section 18605, would allow private, profit motivated corporations to determine who would be qualified to practice professional engineering in Maine. That is an abdication of the sovereign police power of the State of Maine, and that would be a mistake, and could possibly cost the lives of Maine citizens.

I would be happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.