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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**

**Plotkin, Adam**

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**From:** Peterson, David [petersond@uwstout.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 03, 2007 2:04 PM  
**To:** Sen.Coggs  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 181

**Senator Coggs,**  
**Please accept my support for this bill.**

**Assembly Bill 181**

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

Sincerely,  
David G. Peterson AIA  
Eau Claire, WI 54701



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



## Plotkin, Adam

---

**From:** aiaw@aiaw.org  
**Sent:** Monday, December 03, 2007 4:02 PM  
**To:** Sen.Coggs  
**Subject:** 2007 Assembly Bill 181 – Continuing Education

Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs:

I am contacting you on behalf of AIA Wisconsin, the state society of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), to encourage you to support 2007 Assembly Bill 181.

Assembly Bill 181 is simple enabling legislation that would allow sections of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors to establish minimum continuing education requirements for individuals to renew their license in Wisconsin.

In May, Assembly Bill 181 was unanimously recommended for passage by the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry. In October, this proposed legislation was approved by the Wisconsin Assembly on a voice vote. It was immediately messaged to the Wisconsin Senate, where it was referred to the Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs.

Currently, 37 states require continuing education for architects to renew their license to practice, including our neighboring states of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. In addition, Michigan has adopted similar enabling legislation.

New building codes, materials, products, technologies and delivery systems are constantly changing the way in which buildings are designed and constructed. Members of The American Institute of Architects support lifelong learning and continuing education programs to supplement their active architectural practices. In fact, continuing education has been required for architects to renew their AIA membership since 1995.

Thank you for your consideration of our support for Assembly Bill 181. I would appreciate being kept informed of its progress in the Wisconsin Senate. With over 1,500 individual members, AIA Wisconsin represents architects in private practice, business, industry, education and government.

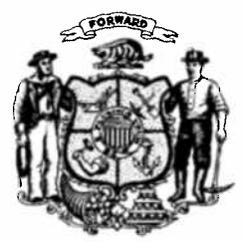
William M. Babcock, Hon. AIA  
Executive Director  
AIA Wisconsin  
321 S. Hamilton St.  
Madison, WI 53703-4000  
Phone: (608) 257-8477  
Toll Free (WI): 800-ARCHITECT  
Fax: (608) 257-0242  
email: bill@aiaw.org

AIA Wisconsin is a Society of The American Institute of Architects.

If you do not wish to receive e-mail promotions in the future, Click on the link to be removed  
<http://www.aiaw.org/SUBFOLDER1/remove.cfm?SID=54923&SE=Sen.Coggs@legis.wisconsin.gov&EC=47>  
DO NOT REPLY to this message. The e-mail address in which you are subscribed is Sen.Coggs@legis.wisconsin.gov.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Plotkin, Adam**

---

**From:** Hanson, Martin J. [hansonm@AyresAssociates.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 03, 2007 4:30 PM  
**To:** Sen.Coggs  
**Subject:** December 4, Hearing on AB 181  
**Attachments:** 1520\_001.pdf

Please find attached information for the Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs hearing scheduled for tomorrow. The information is for the public hearing on AB 181.

I urge you to approve and move this bill forward to the Senate at the earliest opportunity. Additional information can be found in the attachment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Martin J. Hanson, PE**  
Vice President

**Ayres Associates**

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Phone (715) 834-3161  
Fax (715) 831-7500  
[HansonM@AyresAssociates.com](mailto:HansonM@AyresAssociates.com)  
[www.AyresAssociates.com](http://www.AyresAssociates.com)

T61

Jim Doyle  
Governor

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
REGULATION & LICENSING

1400 E Washington Ave  
PO Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708-8935  
Email: [web@drl.state.wi.us](mailto:web@drl.state.wi.us)  
Voice: 608-266-2112  
FAX: 608-267-0644  
TTY: 608-267-2416

Celia M. Jackson  
Secretary



Senator Coggs and  
Members of the Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs  
Room 123 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Re: Assembly Bill AB 181

Honorable Senator Coggs and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask you to approve AB 181 and move the bill to the floor for action at the earliest opportunity. This bill has been drafted to accomplish the intent of the Joint Board, which in turn serves to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Wisconsin.

I currently serve as chairman of the Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, and also serve as chairman of the Professional Engineers Section. Both of these boards strongly support this bill in its current format.

This is a simple bill to allow the professional sections to individually establish Continuing Professional Competency (CPC), commonly referred to as continuing education, requirements for their credential holders.

I believe required continuing education does indeed provide additional protection to the public. Given that we require education for licensure, it is not unreasonable to assume that additional learning throughout a professional's career will enable him/her to make better decisions. Given the rapid advances in technology, changes in public policy, and ever-changing environmental restrictions, it is imperative that practicing professionals remain current in their field. The Joint Board and I believe this is a step in the right direction.

Establishing the specifics of each professions' requirements will be open to public comment and debate during promulgation of the rules.

Wisconsin is one of only 16 states without such requirements for professional engineers. We need to be in-step with the industry to enable Wisconsin professionals to compete in larger markets.

This bill is supported in its current form by members of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin (ACEC WI), members of the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and members of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE).

I strongly urge you and the entire committee to support this bill so we can send this bill to the Governor's desk for signature at the earliest possible date.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this bill and how it affects engineers and the public. Thank you for your action on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin J. Hanson', written over a horizontal line.

Martin J. Hanson, PE

Chairman – Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers,  
Designers and Land Surveyors

Chairman – Professional Engineers Section

cc: Senator Robert Wirch (Vice-Chair)  
Senator John Lehman  
Senator Glenn Grothman  
Senator Alan Lasee

**Testimony**

Senate

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

11:00 AM

330 Southwest

State Capitol

Assembly Bill 181

Martin J. Hanson, PE

Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects,

Professional Engineers, Designers & Land Surveyors--Chairman

Professional Engineers Section--Chairman

Chairman Coggs and Honorable Members of the Committee on Labor,  
Elections and Urban Affairs:

Senator Spencer Coggs (Chair)

Senator Robert Wirch (Vice-Chair)

Senator John Lehman

Senator Glenn Grothman

Senator Alan Lasee

*I am sorry that I am unable to appear before you today in-person to present testimony and be able to answer your questions. When I was informed of the hearing date, I already had commitments at the time of this hearing that I was unable to change. I have asked Ms. Rosheen Styczinski, FASLA, vice chair of the Joint Board, to present my testimony to you. Please consider my testimony below, and I would be happy to supply answers to your questions or the committee's questions in writing at your convenience.*

I am presenting testimony on behalf of the Wisconsin Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers & Land Surveyors, where I am chairman, and the Engineers Section of the Joint Board, where I am also chairman; both boards have authorized me to speak on behalf of the respective bodies. I would like to thank the chairman for scheduling the hearing on this important legislation, and I would like to also thank Senators Lassa and Cowles for their sponsorship of this bill. Today, I intend to provide testimony on this legislation to inform and answer your questions to convey the purpose behind Assembly Bill 181.

This bill is enabling legislation. The bill provides the member sections of the Joint Board, the authority to establish Continuing Professional Competency, CPC (commonly referred to as continuing education) requirements for professions licensed under the respective sections.

It is important to note that this bill does not:

1. Require any section to implement requirements
2. Establish any minimum quantity of education
3. Prescribe the content, method of delivery, or approval of any education requirements
4. Establish any timeline for implementation

The Joint Board and the sections purposely crafted the legislation to reserve these decisions to the individual sections. Each profession is in a better position to uniquely establish, maintain, and enforce their own CPC program.

Establishing CPC requirements will enable Wisconsin professionals to compete in wider markets across the country and the world. Having CPC will make it easier for credential holders to obtain a similar credential in other states with similar requirements.

CPC is currently a requirement in 34 states for Professional Engineers, and that number continues to grow.

Increasingly, changes in technology, materials, environmental protection, and performance requirements make continued learning a must for professionals. Some would argue that simple market forces are enough to compel professionals to seek further education. The Joint Board believes this is not sufficient to fulfill its core mission, the protection of public health, safety and welfare.

I believe required continuing education does indeed provide additional protection to the public. Given that we require education for licensure, it is not unreasonable to assume that additional learning throughout a professional's career will enable him/her to make better decisions. Given the rapid advances in technology, changes in public policy, and ever-changing environmental restrictions, it is imperative that practicing professionals remain current in their field. The Joint Board and I believe this is a step in the right direction.

The purpose of today's hearing is not to discuss the details of the requirements, but to adopt the philosophy that continuing professional competency inherently adds to the protection of citizens.

Professionals and the public will have opportunities to discuss and debate the specifics of the CPC programs, for each credential during promulgation of the rules. The rules must pass through each section board, the Joint Board Rules Committee, and the full Joint Board before adopted and enacted. There will be ample opportunities for input to ensure an effective and efficient system.

Therefore, I ask you to approve this bill and send it to the Senate for action at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, in summary, the Engineer Section of the Joint Board and the Joint Board strongly support Assembly Bill 181 and urge its passage at the earliest opportunity.

This bill is needed to protect the citizens of Wisconsin as well as enable our professionals to compete in the world market.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

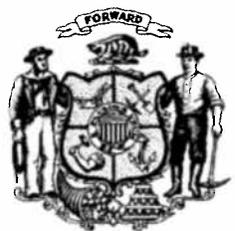
I would be happy to answer any questions that may remain from the committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin J. Hanson', written in a cursive style.

Martin J. Hanson, PE  
Chairman – Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects,  
Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors  
Chairman – Professional Engineers Section



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





## **Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers**

7044 South 10th Street  
Oak Creek, WI 53154  
Ph: (414) 908-4050  
Fax: (414) 768-8001  
Web: www.wspe.org

*A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers*

December 3, 2007

Senate Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs  
Senator Spencer Cogs, Chairman  
Room 123 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: Wisconsin Assembly Bill 181 (Proposed Continuing Education Requirements)

Honorable State Senators:

The Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE) strongly supports Assembly Bill 181 that would give the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors (Examining Board) the authority to establish continuing education requirements for renewal of professional licensure. The goal of the bill is to enhance the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public by establishing requirements for professionals to keep pace with changes in technology, research, and ethics.

Assembly Bill 181 is the first step in establishing continuing professional competency (CPC) requirements for engineers. Once those requirements are in place, Wisconsin will join the ranks of at least 34 other states with similar requirements. Having CPC requirements should make it easier for professional engineers registered in Wisconsin to obtain comity from other states in which they wish to practice engineering. WSPE looks forward to having the opportunity to assist the Examining Board in developing CPC requirements that are reasonable, enforceable, easy to monitor, and not unduly burdensome for either the state or the professionals to whom they apply. Most importantly, we look forward to helping ensure the CPC requirements are effective in achieving their primary purpose of enhancing the protection of the public.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

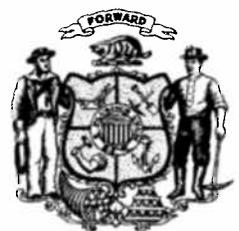
Sincerely,

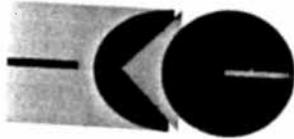
James A. Buggs, P.E.  
WSPE President, 2007-2008

cc: American Council of Engineering Companies WI  
American Institute of Architects, Wisconsin Chapter  
American Society of Civil Engineers, Wisconsin Section  
American Society of Landscape Architects, Wisconsin Chapter  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors  
Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers Board of Directors



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**ESSIE KAMMER GROUP**

16 N. CARROLL ST., STE. 900  
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SUSIE SCHOOFF  
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

**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](http://www.acecwi.org)

*the business voice of the Wisconsin consulting engineering industry*

December 3, 2007

To: Wisconsin State Legislators

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin (ACEC WI) supports AB 181 and encourages passage of this bill and would appreciate your support as well. ACEC WI represents over 60 consulting engineering firms and affiliate members that employ approximately 3,800 highly educated and trained professionals across the state. 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.

Historically, an engineering education consisted primarily of basic math and science courses followed by those in analysis and design. A few liberal arts courses were included but were not viewed as a core element of an engineer's education. This approach produced professionals who were solid engineers, but who often lacked good communication skills as well as a broad view of



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](http://www.acecwi.org)

*the business voice of the Wisconsin consulting engineering industry*

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Today's market place demands a more substantial knowledge base from engineers. In order to stay current with changing technology, equipment, procedures, processes, tools, and established standards, many states are requiring continuing education for professional engineers. The requirement is intended to protect the public from outdated, under-qualified, or unethical practitioners by reinforcing the need for lifelong learning.

Currently, 29 out of 50 states have some sort of continuing education requirement for professional engineers. Wisconsin is in a shrinking minority of states that does not have some requirement for assuring professional engineers maintain current competence. This can make it difficult for Wisconsin engineers to gain reciprocity in other states.

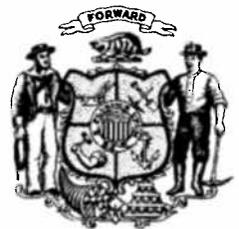
ACEC WI's member firms pledge to uphold high professional and ethical standards. ACEC WI supports enabling legislation that would allow the Engineers Section of the Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors to promulgate rules to require continuing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

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



## STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 181 December 4, 2007

William P. O'Connor  
Legislative Counsel  
608.255.7277

Wisconsin's land was first described nearly 200 years ago by the U.S. Public Lands Survey, which established the Towns, Ranges, Sections and smaller divisions still referenced in most rural surveys. That was frontier work, conducted by surveyors with chains and sextants.

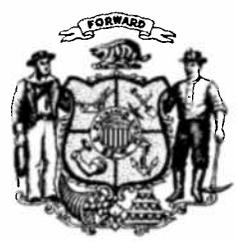
Modern survey tools include GPS satellite-based data transmission, laser measurement, computer aided mapping and other highly sophisticated tools. Survey practice has also become more complex, with multi-dimensional surveys, condominium plats and other types of land maps unknown only a few years ago. Surveyors also need to keep current on legal developments affecting survey practice, including court decisions and evolving state and local platting regulations.

For the past seven years, the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors (WSLS) has conducted a surveyor-training program available to our members and all licensed land surveyors. This voluntary program, developed in conjunction with the State Examining Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, reaches a broad segment of practicing surveyors.

As the complexity of survey practice has increased, the Society has been convinced that mandatory continuing education is necessary to protect landowners and purchasers. WSLS urge the Committee to recommend the bill for passage.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



# 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*

---

December 4, 2007

Senator Spencer Coggs, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs  
Wisconsin State Senate  
Madison, WI

RE: Assembly Bill 181 relating to continuing education for design professionals

Dear Senator Coggs and Members of the Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin (ACEC WI) supports AB 181 and encourages passage of this bill. ACEC WI represents over 75 consulting engineering firms and affiliate members that employ approximately 3,800 highly educated and trained professionals across the state. ACEC WI believes all professional engineers should maintain a professional standard of competence. This organization 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.

Historically, an engineering education consisted primarily of basic math and science courses followed by those in analysis and design. A few liberal arts courses were included but were not viewed as a core element of an engineer's education. This approach produced professionals who were solid engineers, but who often lacked good communication skills as well as a broad view of the world in which they practice.

Today's marketplace demands a more substantial knowledge base from engineers. In order to stay current with changing technology, equipment, procedures, processes, tools, and established standards, many states are requiring continuing education for professional engineers. The requirement is intended to protect the public from outdated, under-qualified, or unethical practitioners by reinforcing the need for lifelong learning.

Currently, 29 out of 50 states have some sort of continuing education requirement for professional engineers. Wisconsin is in a shrinking minority of states that does not have some requirement for assuring professional engineers maintain current competence. This can make it difficult for Wisconsin engineers to gain reciprocity in other states.

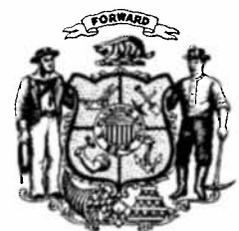
ACEC WI's member firms pledge to uphold high professional and ethical standards. ACEC WI supports enabling legislation that would allow the Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors to promulgate rules to require continuing education for license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

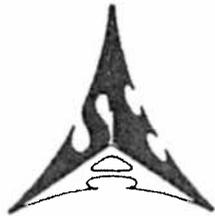
Sincerely,

  
Carol Godiksen  
Executive Director



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**State Engineering Association**  
4510 Regent Street  
Madison, WI 53705-4963

(608)233-4696  
(608)233-6766 FAX  
www.wisea.org

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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban**

**AB 181 Continuing Education for Architects, Landscape Architects,  
Professional Engineers, Designers of Engineering Systems, and Land Surveyors**

**December 4, 2007**

My name is Robert Schaefer, and I am a professional engineer registered in this state. I am also a member of the State Engineering Association which I am representing at this hearing. The State Engineering Association is the collective bargaining unit representing state employees in professional occupations related to engineering.

We neither oppose nor support the continuing education requirement. However, we do believe the proposal for engineering continuing education highlights the need for the state to provide appropriate employee training opportunities.

In May of this year, another professional engineer from organization attended a public hearing to present comments on AB 181 to the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry. Consider the events that have occurred in just the past 7 months since the May public hearing, it is clear that the state faces many complex decisions related bridge and damn maintenance, water quality and supply, air quality, waste management and development of agricultural, energy and mineral resources.

Skilled public civil service employees are needed to ensure protection and maintenance of critical infrastructure, public health and safety, and natural resources for the citizens and commerce of Wisconsin. The state's workforce strategy most certainly needs to include the hiring, development and retention of employees that are professionally licensed and continually trained.

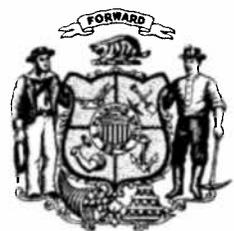
I want to mention that the State Engineering Association an independent bargaining unit, and is operated by the association membership. I am using vacation time to be here today. We do not have full time staff to attend legislative hearings on work time, but our members are keenly aware of the importance of your job to manage the business of the state.

The State Engineering Association asks you to ensure the state acts responsibly for citizens and commerce, and as an employer, by providing adequate funding for continuing education for state engineering related positions.

I appreciate being able to share these concerns with you. Please contact the State Engineering Association if you have questions about these comments, or would like to discuss these issues further.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Testimony of State Representative  
Steve Wieckert**

**Assembly Bill 181 – Continuing Education Credits  
for Land Surveyors, Engineers, & Other Design  
Professionals**

*Senate Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban  
Affairs*

*Room 330 Southwest – December 4, 2007*

Good morning Chairman Coggs and committee members. I am pleased to come before you today to discuss Assembly Bill 181, Continuing Education Credits for Land Surveyors, Engineers, & Other Design Professionals.

Currently, most professional organizations in Wisconsin have various licensing and registration requirements which help protect consumers, and ensure a high quality of workmanship is maintained within the industry. In addition, a continuing education credit requirement is oftentimes included in this process.

The bill before you today, would allow the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors the ability to establish a continuing education requirement which must be satisfied when an individual wishes to renew their license every other year.

The continuing education requirement will help ensure land surveyors and other engineering professionals will be kept up-to-date on the latest industry practices and regulations, and will help to maintain the high quality of service they provide to Wisconsin's consumers. Currently, 29 out of 50 states have a continuing education requirement for license in these particular fields.

This legislation is supported by:

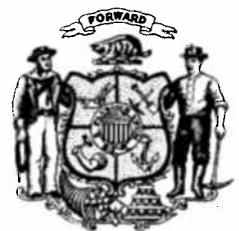
- American Council of Engineering Companies
- Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors
- Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors
- Society of Southeastern Wisconsin Land Surveyors
- Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing
- Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
- Degen-Foat Surveying
- American Institute of Architects

- Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers
- Wisconsin Rental Housing Legislative Council
- Wisconsin Society of Architects
- Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association

Thank you. At this time I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



DEC 07 2007

**ROSENMERKEL ENGINEERING  
415 TENNY AVENUE  
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN 53186**

December 6, 2007

Senator Spencer Coggs  
Room 123 South  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882.  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Subject: AB 181

Dear Senator Coggs:

I attended the hearing on the subject bill on 4 Dec 07 in the capitol. While I chose not to testify, I did leave evidence of my opposition to this legislation. I didn't want to cause discomfort for my WSPE colleague, Dale Chlebowski who did in fact testify for the bill.

I too, have been active member of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers for nearly 30 years, serving as WSPE president in 1996-7, inaugurating the BEPR and currently serve on the boards of WSPE and EFW. This issue was debated during my presidency back then as well. To better ascertain interest, I made presentations to the American Public Works Association [APWA] at various conferences, to the American Society of Civil Engineers [ASCE], and to many individual engineering forms. There was no clear support from any of those groups then and there is no clear support now, the official WSPE posture notwithstanding. There certainly is no majority support from the licensed engineers in the state.

I oppose this legislation to require the Department of Regulation and licensing to develop a model for MANDATORY continuing education [CPC] for professional license renewal. Requiring licensed professionals to attend DRL prescribed programs will NOT assure competency. Any successful engineer will continue his/her education within the area of expertise to simply remain competitive and employable. Failure to practice competently will often result in revocation of license [as it should], and may result in termination of employment as a practitioner [again as it should].

During the hearing several pointed questions were asked – one was related to cost of services. Mandatory CPC WILL result in increased fees for professional services. With agencies like DOT engaging more private firms, costs are sure to rise. Sen. Wirth asked about impact on consumers – most consumers rarely or never engage a professional without a reference and would not know [or care] if the competent engineer had attended classes recently. The only winners here are the university systems that promote this requirement – they need to 'sell' classes to survive. Only about half the states in the U.S have a mandatory renewal regulation.

Another question related to cost. Please consider the cost to all the municipalities and agencies that employ PE's in their respective organizations. It could be prohibitive, especially in smaller communities. The courses offered can cost nearly \$1,000 for a two day event, and that may provide less than 1/4 of a model requirement.

As you likely concluded from my address, I am a Professional Engineer consultant, serving a primary client in a very specialized area of engineering. I am a regional geotechnical expert in the uses of coal fly ash in construction. I teach courses to many engineering groups across the entire country and Canada in those uses. And as I do that, I have witnessed some engineers getting the attendance certification without actually attending the class. My firm [Lafarge] is international and I do interface with many Canadian Professional Engineers on a regular basis. In Canada there is no such requirement. The only requirement is that license holders remain current in their discipline.

Along with WSPE, I have worked hard to assure ethical, competent practice by our members, licensed non-members and firms offering professional engineering services. I have an intense interest in seeing to it that professionals who exhibit incompetence and unethical practitioners are disciplined and/or punished. That alone should assure professional competence. In a past position as Vice-President with a major engineering firm in Wisconsin, I had the unsavory task of terminating employees that did not perform competently.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on the intent of AB 181. I strongly oppose the bill. There is no need to make this requirement because other states do. Our engineering community here in Wisconsin is not only competent, but self-policing.

Sincerely,

James R. Rosenmerkel, P.E.  
Rosenmerkel Engineering/Lafarge North America  
415 Tenny Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186

C: Sen. Wirch  
Sen. Lehman  
Sen. Grothman  
Sen. Lasee  
Rep. Gottlieb

Rosenmerkel Engineering  
415 Tenny Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186

MILWAUKEE WI 532

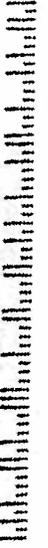
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USA FIRST CLASS FOREVER



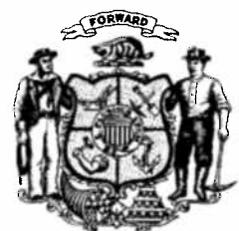
Senator Spencer Coggs  
Room 123 South  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882.  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

53707+7882





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



AB 181  
?

### ACEC WI Position Paper

Date ?

## MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Background

Historically, an engineering education consisted primarily of basic math and science courses followed by those in analysis and design. A few liberal arts courses were included but were not viewed as a core element of an engineer's education. This approach produced professionals who were solid engineers, but who often lacked good communication skills as well as a broad view of the world in which they practice.

Today's market place demands a more substantial knowledge base from engineers. In order to stay current with changing technology, equipment, procedures, processes, tools, and established standards, many states are requiring continuing education for professional engineers. The requirement is intended to protect the public from outdated, under-qualified, or unethical practitioners by reinforcing the need for lifelong learning.

Currently, 29 out of 50 states have some sort of continuing education requirement for professional engineers. Wisconsin is in a shrinking minority of states that does not have some requirement for assuring professional engineers maintain current competence. This can make it difficult for Wisconsin engineers to gain reciprocity in other states.

### Position

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.

Adopted by the ACEC WI Board of Directors June 8, 2005



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





*Society of Southeastern Wisconsin Land Surveyors Inc.*  
*Milwaukee Metro Chapter*  
*W 174 N 9467 Joper Road*  
*Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051*  
*262-250-8003*  
*sosewls@wi.rr.com*



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

AB 181 ?  
Date ?

Re: LRB 0857/1

Dear Rep. Wieckert:

On behalf of the Society of Southeastern Land Surveyors, inc., Milwaukee Metro Chapter. I would like to advise you that at our February 22nd meeting we voted to support legislation that would amend Chapter 443 of the Statutes. This legislation would grant rulemaking authority to the Department of Regulation and Licensing to establish continuing education requirements for registered land surveyors.

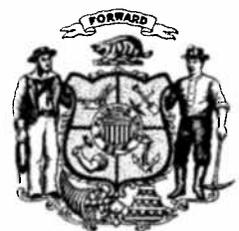
Our Chapter is an association of approximately 75 members, with about 40 licensed to practice in the state, while the remaining are technicians, students and others interested in the profession. Also please note that Wisconsin is one of fewer than ten states that do not now require mandatory continuing education for land surveyors.

Sincerely,

Ross M. Knodl  
President



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Jim Doyle  
Governor

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
REGULATION & LICENSING

1400 E Washington Ave  
PO Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708-8935

Celia M. Jackson  
Secretary



Email: web@drf.state.wi.us  
Voice: 608-266-2112  
FAX: 608-267-0644  
TTY: 608-267-2416

Senator Coggs and  
Members of the Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs  
Room 123 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Date ?

Re: Assembly Bill AB 181

Honorable Senator Coggs and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask you to approve AB 181 and move the bill to the floor for action at the earliest opportunity. This bill has been drafted to accomplish the intent of the Joint Board, which in turn serves to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Wisconsin.

I currently serve as chairman of the Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, and also serve as chairman of the Professional Engineers Section. Both of these boards strongly support this bill in its current format.

This is a simple bill to allow the professional sections to individually establish Continuing Professional Competency (CPC), commonly referred to as continuing education, requirements for their credential holders.

I believe required continuing education does indeed provide additional protection to the public. Given that we require education for licensure, it is not unreasonable to assume that additional learning throughout a professional's career will enable him/her to make better decisions. Given the rapid advances in technology, changes in public policy, and ever-changing environmental restrictions, it is imperative that practicing professionals remain current in their field. The Joint Board and I believe this is a step in the right direction.

Establishing the specifics of each professions' requirements will be open to public comment and debate during promulgation of the rules.

Wisconsin is one of only 16 states without such requirements for professional engineers. We need to be in-step with the industry to enable Wisconsin professionals to compete in larger markets.

This bill is supported in its current form by members of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin (ACEC WI), members of the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and members of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE).

I strongly urge you and the entire committee to support this bill so we can send this bill to the Governor's desk for signature at the earliest possible date.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this bill and how it affects engineers and the public. Thank you for your action on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin J. Hanson', written over a white background.

Martin J. Hanson, PE

Chairman – Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers,  
Designers and Land Surveyors

Chairman – Professional Engineers Section

cc: Senator Robert Wirch (Vice-Chair)  
Senator John Lehman  
Senator Glenn Grothman  
Senator Alan Lasee