Dear Governor Justice,

I am writing to encourage you to veto Senate Bill 472, which will negatively impact state licensing boards. The WV Board of Professional Surveyors already has in place a well-utilized model for license mobility based on the three E’s: Education, Examination, and Experience. We feel that as a profession, we should not be targeted for doing a job effectively and efficiently while protecting the best interest of our public citizens.

Primarily, this bill seeks to implement a “least restrictive” alternative to occupational licensing for the surveying profession. This bill will significantly increase duties for the Performance Evaluation and Research Division (PERD), which will expand it’s role well beyond their current responsibilities/capabilities. SB 472 proposes replacing our Board’s current comprehensive evaluations/examinations with a shallow system based on consumer reviews to address quality concerns. Relying on consumer reviews allows individuals to seek guidance from easily manipulated sources (such as “Yelp” and “Angie’s List”) to find professionals, rather than seeking out well-qualified licensees with verifiable experience and competency guided by our state statutes. The bill’s simple-minded approach discredits proper professionals who will maintain professional integrity and ethics in the face of a statute that does nothing to protect consumers from unscrupulous impostors.

In addition, a major concern is that outside interest groups were directly responsible for this legislation. Language for this bill was copied verbatim from the American Legislative Exchange Council’s (ALEC) website and simply inserted into SB 472. This gives us pause and question; do outside legal groups from the Washington, D.C. necessarily have the best interest of West Virginians at heart?

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter, and once again I ask that you veto Senate Bill 472. By doing so, you will ensure that WV licensing standards remain effective and continue to protect the public. As West Virginians, we should not rely on outside interests to dictate our public policy. Instead, if there are problems, we should work together to find our own answers.

Sincerely,

NAME HERE