

**STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS
TESTIMONY
2012-2013 BIENNIAL OPERATING BUDGET
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
John Greenhalge, Executive Director
May 4, 2011**

Chairman Widener and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 operating budget. I am John Greenhalge, Executive Director for the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors.

The Board's mission is to safeguard the health, safety, property, and welfare of the citizens of Ohio by providing effective licensure and regulation of professional engineers and surveyors, as well as engineering and surveying firms. Although we do not receive the level of media attention of many other boards, the services provided by the Board are extremely important to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio. Our nearly 30,000 registrants are the professionals that design Ohio's roads, bridges and highways, design our homes, skyscrapers, schools, churches and commercial buildings, establish our property boundaries and GIS data, inspect our waterways and ensures the safety of our drinking water. We accomplish our mission pursuant to Chapter 4733 of the Revised Code by minimum education standards, examination, continuing education requirements, and the investigation of complaints filed with the Board. The Board's examination process is quite thorough and our licensing process ensures that only qualified individuals are admitted to the practice of engineering and surveying. In order

to become a registered professional engineer or professional surveyor in Ohio, one must receive a four-year accredited engineering or surveying degree, take and pass an 8-hour fundamentals examination, obtain four years of acceptable engineering or surveying experience and then pass an 8-hour principles and practice examination. The Board administers examinations and licenses individuals in the following engineering disciplines: agricultural, architectural, chemical, civil, control systems, electrical and computer, environmental, fire protection, industrial, mechanical, metallurgical and materials, mining and mineral processing, naval architecture, nuclear, petroleum, structural and surveying. Currently, the Board regulates approximately 26,505 professional engineers and surveyors and more than 2,200 engineering and surveying firms.

Breakdown of Registrants

Professional Engineers	24,411
Professional Surveyors	1,349
Professional Engineers/Professional Surveyors (Duals)	745
Engineering/Surveying Firms	2,205

The Board consists of five members appointed by the Governor and currently employs eight full-time staff members to accomplish its mission. We are one of the largest engineering and surveying boards in the United States in terms of registrants, yet we have one of the lowest staff to registrant ratios for regulatory Boards in the U.S. and Ohio.

Accomplishments

- In Fiscal Year 2010 the Board staff sent out 27,000 renewals and processed 25,900 professional engineer and surveyor renewal applications for 2011.
- In Fiscal Year 2010 the Board staff reviewed 2,698 applications to take the October 2010 and April 2011 engineering and surveying examinations.
- In Fiscal Year 2010 the Board staff reviewed and approved 517 applications for registration as professional engineers or surveyors by comity.
- In Fiscal Year 2010 the Board renewed 1,913 Certificates of Authorization for existing engineering and surveying firms and added 292 new engineering and surveying firms.
- The Board's investigative staff investigated 110 complaints during Fiscal Year 2010.

Budget

The Board receives no GRF; we are entirely supported by our fees. The Board's \$20 annual renewal fee is currently the lowest registration fee of engineering and surveying boards in the U.S. The Engineers and Surveyors Board is able to keep its expenses low by utilizing the Central Service Agency (CSA) to provide human resources, payroll and fiscal support and processing. The Board is one of twenty-five of Ohio's professional regulatory boards that share services through a central business office operated by the Central Service Agency (CSA), a division of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The boards also share a common licensure system operated by the Department of

Administrative Services Information Technology Division. DAS Information Technology Division also provides these 25 Boards with IT support, internet service and telecommunications. Sharing services through the creation of CSA and e-licensing were initiated and developed by the collective efforts and cooperation of the participating boards. This joint effort has been unique in state government and it did not require legislative initiatives to create. Because of this unique use of a shared central business office, the twenty-five participating boards do not have to hire individual human resource, fiscal and IT personnel and incur the expenses associated with these additional staff positions. Ohio's regulatory boards have an excellent reputation nationally and we believe that the citizens of Ohio are well-served by Ohio's regulatory Boards.

The Executive Budget proposal for the Board is \$934,264 for Fiscal Year 2012 and \$921,778 for Fiscal Year 2013. The Executive Budget includes a slight increase in funding. It is important to note that the Board was funded at \$1,058,881 during FY 06/07 and FY 08/09, and has operated at reduced funding of \$902,772 during FY 10/11. Payroll costs are expected to increase 4% and overall fixed maintenance costs will increase at least 17% during the 2012-2013 biennium. Increases in maintenance costs include newly enacted assessments for audits, which will cost approximately \$13,000 during the biennium. The requested funding level will be fully supported by existing licensing fees without increase. The Board's revenue for the biennium is expected to exceed the budget request by 12%. The Board is concerned that our operating budget remains significantly lower than the FY 08/09 appropriation, while our costs have continued to increase; however, the Board is hopeful that the proposed savings from Senate Bill 5 and other cost

savings measures proposed by the administration will allow the Board to continue its current level of service and fulfill its mission to the citizens of Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the Board's budget recommendation. At this time I would like to answer any questions you have.