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Representatives of the House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor
Colorado State Legislature
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Re: House Bill 24-1329 Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors Sunset Review Bill
And Amendment L.001 – Continuing Education Requirement for Professional Land Surveyors

Dear Honorable Representatives:

I am writing in support of House Bill 24-1329, the Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors Sunset Review bill being heard in your committee March 7, 2024. I am also supporting the proposed amendment L.001 requiring Continued Education for Professional Land Surveyors to renew their licenses.

Per the Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyor Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors (AES) Board, under part 1.3.A.1 Primary Obligations of Licensees, "Licensees shall at all times recognize that their primary obligation is to protect the safety, health, property, and welfare of the public." I have become familiar with similar language in many other regulatory entities, but their wording is typically the protection of the safety, health, and welfare of the public. The addition of also protecting the property of the public is rather unique to our professions. This added responsibility of protecting the property of the public comes with much more necessity of ensuring licensees are qualified. In many cases, one's main financial asset is their property, and it is important that those of us charged with protecting those properties and their property lines are well qualified to take on the added burden. As such, I encourage passage of House Bill 24-1329 from your committee and ultimately the full legislature and signature of the Governor.

Amendment L.001 has been proposed to make continuing education of the Professional Land Surveyors a qualification for renewing their license. Please recognize the initial licensure as a PLS only attest to meeting the minimum requirements of education, experience, and testing. It takes many years as a practicing surveyor and a commitment to continuing education to truly gain the nuances of the technical and boundary law issues necessary to being a competent well qualified Professional Land Surveyor. I have had the opportunity to retrace several surveys of those who have not kept up with their education and find numerous errors in judgement when it comes to boundary law issues. The cost of some of these errors can be quite expensive. I am involved with a current case in which another surveyor did not follow Colorado law on partitioning some properties defined by the Public Land Surveying System. As a result, there client proceeded to cross long established lines of occupation leading to expensive litigation. Our following survey relied upon the principles of law and as such was expensive in its own right. The clients have also spent will over \$100,000 to date in litigation expense alone. A properly educated and trained surveyor would not have made the erroneous decisions which culminated in these expenses. Requiring continuing education is a start in ensuring the protection of the Public's Property as dictated by our primary obligations as licensed surveyors.

Please approve this bill with its amendment for required continuing education for those renewing their Professional Land Surveyors license.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Sylvester
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