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Surveying and
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To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to our attention that House Bill HB1551 has recently been filed during this current Session. The Arkansas Society of Professional Surveyors (ASPS) would like to make the following statement:


We appreciate the efforts and intent of Representative Womack and his co-sponsors to encourage and promote economic development with an initiative for the creation of jobs across the State of Arkansas. And while we also recognize the need for competitive practices, this bill (HB1551), if passed, would circumvent and unravel the state licensure and certification process that is now in place to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens.

The profession of surveying is not just measuring a distance, placing a rebar and drawing a sketch. To properly survey someone's title to their land, the surveyor must be educated in applicable laws, rules and regulations. He must be knowledgeable about current technologies and have sufficient experience to make correct decisions. To most individuals in the state, their house and land are the largest and most important investments they may ever make. Those people deserve to know that when they select a surveyor, that the professional they choose has been vetted, tested and found worthy to provide the service they request. And that that person will not only defend the boundary decision that was made, but will also be held accountable by the State Board of Licensure.

Having uncertified or unlicensed practitioners providing certain services could cause unsafe conditions, cause litigation, and create financial burdens to have their mistakes fixed. If this bill is passed, those uncertified or unlicensed practitioners would not be required to answer to the State Boards regulating their respective professions, so the courts would be left to decide every case arising from each dispute that may arise.

As written, this Bill could be liberally interpreted and create many unintended consequences. This Bill is confusing and contains language that will convolute the current statutes regulating licensed professions. We implore you to give careful and thoughtful consideration to the long term negative effects should this Bill become law, and we ask that you vote "No" on HB1551.

Sincerely,


Jay Young, PS
ASPS President-Elect