



Missouri Society of Professional Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

April 28, 2017

Members of the Joint Conference Committee on SCS for HB 3

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, I urge the Joint Conference Committee on SCS for HB3 **to oppose the sweep of \$1 million from the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Professional Landscape Architects (MoAPEPLSPLA).**

In accordance with current state statute, Chapter 327. 081 (Item 1 and 2), the MoAPEPLSPLA Board's current funds are below the law's sweep level. MSPE believes the proposed sweep is an unnecessary act – the consequence of which will likely precipitate an unnecessary burden of raising the cost of professional licensure for all of Missouri's architects, engineers, land surveyors and landscape architects.

Licensees under MoAPEPLSPLA voluntarily pay a fee – not a tax – to be recognized by the State of Missouri as licensed professionals. The fee is designed, by state statute, to pay for the operation of the four professions served by the MoAPEPLSPLA Board -- not to fund university programming.

This proposed sweep can also be viewed as a punitive action against the MoAPEPLSPLA Board members and staff who have been fiscally responsible to its licensees. Creating a healthy reserve for use in the event of a catastrophic event should be applauded rather than penalized. The actions of the MoAPEPLSPLA Board and staff are intended as a precautionary act so as to never repeat the 1981 scenario where the Hyatt Walkways Collapse in Kansas City forced the Board to do an emergency rule increasing licensure fees to cover litigation costs. No one can foresee where or when the next catastrophic event will take place – they can only be mindful of the possibility and take preventative measures.

An argument can also be made that the sweep money isn't being used to serve all of the professions served by MoAPEPLSPLA when it is only supporting a single program representing only one of the professions comprised by the Board. MSPE also makes the argument that one engineering school should not be singled out for funding when there are additional engineering schools and programs throughout the University of Missouri system and elsewhere across the state that desire additional funds to improve their offerings to train future professional engineers.

Respectfully,

Bruce A. Wylie, Executive Director