


AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Ohio

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Jay Edwards
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Edwards:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio (ACEC Ohio) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on House Bill 121.

The State of Ohio licenses professional engineers and requires that they “act with complete integrity in professional matters for each client or employer as a faithful agent; shall be honest and impartial, and shall serve the public, client and employer with devotion.” A failure to meet this standard can result in revocation of the engineer’s license to practice.

Moreover, the professional engineer and the firm that employs the engineer are legally liable for the technical integrity of the projects they design – and they are required to hold professional liability insurance to protect the public against any potential malpractice that might occur in the design of a public works project.

The role of a consulting engineer is to provide sound engineering judgement and expert advice based on the best interest of the client for each project worked on and they are ethically required to do so, which begs the question why does this same requirement need to be codified in H.B. 121? Many factors go into choosing the correct type of pipe, including type of soil, the pressure the pipe will be under, the ease of connection with other types of pipe, just to cite a few. We rely on the professional engineers employed by our local governments, and the independent consulting engineers who work with them to design our underground utility networks to assess the myriad of factors and determine suitable piping materials. In our opinion, the legislation is redundant with current practice and licensure requirements and therefore not needed.

We would be happy to meet with you along with a few of our member firms to discuss the processes and experiences we have had on various types of projects with various clients. Again, we do not understand the need to codify a practice that is already occurring in the realm of engineering, specifically water and waste water design projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 121, we are available to meet at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Beth Easterday
President