New Tools Available for PE Advocates

As “occupational reform” bills spring up across the country and put professional licensing at risk, an NSPE-formed coalition has prepared a useful resource kit that can be used by PE advocates to set the record straight.

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing is working to remind lawmakers that highly complex and technical professions, like engineering, rely on a rigorous system to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It’s this rigor that clearly sets these professions apart from the vocational occupations that lawmakers often cite in defense of their efforts to weaken licensing requirements.

You can learn more about the threat in an ARPL-produced webinar covering the organization’s background, its work on behalf of highly technical licensed professions, and the state advocacy tools it’s created.

You’ll also find advocacy and messaging resources on the main page of the public Drop Box, titled “State Partner Tools and Resources (ARPL).” On this page, you’ll see folders for Key Messages and Talking Points, Lawmaker Outreach Handouts, Public Opinion Research, Sample Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds, Social Media, State Specific Folders, Video Files, and a folder for the webinar.

In addition to NSPE, alliance members include the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

If you have questions, please contact Margaret Edwards at medwards@nspe.org.

Report: State’s Solar Progress Slows
Can at least 20% of the Vermont’s electricity come from in-state solar by 2025? A new report points to challenges ahead. “On one hand, the growth rates required to meet the target are attainable, and have been demonstrated in the period from 2014 to 2019 in both Vermont and national markets,” said the study’s lead author, in a Solar Power World article. “During the last three years Vermont’s solar market has seen declines that, if not corrected, will fall well short of the solar pathway potential.”

State Confronts the Ethics of AI

A state task force on artificial intelligence, which included two professional engineers, has proposed a code of ethics and made other recommendations to ensure the responsible development of the technology, according to an article by StateScoop. The task force’s recommendations were released in January.

The development of AI, autonomous vehicles, and other emerging technologies has been a policy priority for NSPE. The Society has encouraged policymakers to protect the public when developing AI technical standards and considering complex AI issues. It has also been working on multiple fronts to put public safety first in the development of autonomous vehicles.

‘We Definitely Have the Need’

Did you hear Governor Scott’s Engineers Week proclamation? “We definitely have the need [for engineers] here in Vermont,” he said, according to WCAX. “We have all the amenities. We have to go along with it to leverage all of the assets we have. We have one of the healthiest states in the country and one of the safest.”

Climate Change Special Issue

As climate change effects proliferate, professional engineers are taking on the crisis. They’re working to provide solutions as part of their responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The March/April issue of PE magazine includes three articles highlighting PEs’ work in this area:

- “Climate Changers”—Young engineers feel a responsibility to take action on climate with their work—and they’re increasingly choosing to work
for companies that share this perspective.

- **“Harsh Realities Drive Adaptation”** – Cities are targeting climate-change impacts with comprehensive policies. Professional engineers and AEC firms are showing that their expertise can help bring these plans to fruition.

- **“A Grand Challenge Needs to Inspire Grand Solutions”** – Professional engineers have an abundance of opportunities to invent creative, innovative solutions to issues surrounding environmental sustainability and resilience.

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**Share Your Views on the Engineering Profession**

Do you support the elimination of state licensure exemptions? Should states align their licensing requirements to help PEs easily practice in multiple jurisdictions? Does your place of employment welcome diverse perspectives?

These are just some of the issues facing the professional engineering community. NSPE encourages you to provide your perspectives on these topics and more by participating in the **2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey**.

The 15-minute survey is open to NSPE members, engineering students, and engineering professionals. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of four $50 Amazon gift cards.

The results of the survey will be made available to participants and will also be shared in *PE* magazine and other NSPE publications.

*Access the 2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey.*

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**Communication on Your Terms: Update Your Preferences**
NSPE is committed to providing the best service possible. To that end, we need to verify that member profile information is accurate. This includes preferred names and titles, and employer and contact information. NSPE asks all members to review their member profile and update their information.

Thanks to updates to the NSPE database, members can now also choose exactly what emails they want to receive. With new subscription management options, members can unsubscribe from some mailing lists without missing out on information of interest to them. In order to make this possible, all members’ email settings have been reset to the default. Everyone will need to log into their account to manage their preferences, even if they have previously unsubscribed from a mailing list.

Update information and preferences.

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