

TRIDENT

Engineering, Inc.
Mechanical & Plumbing Engineering Services

April 28, 2014

Governor Nikki R. Haley
Office of Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Governor Haley:

I would like to bring to your attention an issue with regards to the license process for Professional Engineers in the State of South Carolina. Two years ago the State of North Carolina granted me the honor of sitting for the Professional Engineer's exam based on my many years of experience in the engineering design profession with strict supervision from registered Professional Engineers.

North Carolina believed individuals without the opportunity of formal education, a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from an accredited University, could substitute actual working experience (20 years minimum with references) to satisfy the requirements for qualifying for a seat to take the PE exam. My work experience was accepted by the NC Board of Engineers, and I was granted the honor to take the nationally administered NCEES Principals and Practice of Engineering Examination, one of the most difficult exams administered. I am happy to report, I successfully passed the examination, and I am now a practicing Professional Engineer in the State of North Carolina.

In February of 2012, I applied for licensure in South Carolina and was turned down because of my educational background. Needless to say, I was very disappointed with the decision, because I should be regarded as equal to any other registered Engineer in the United States after proving my competence in passing the very same examination all prospective Engineers have to pass. I contacted the South Carolina Board of Engineers on their decision and they nicely replied, paraphrased, "You do not meet the South Carolina Professional Engineering requirements, and there is nothing further that can be done at this time". In my opinion, this is like telling any other professional whether it be a Doctor, Lawyer or Politician, once you cross the state line you are no longer a professional.

I have completed over 1,000 engineering projects in my career, many of which are in South Carolina and living and working so close to the border, would like to extend my services to help South Carolina grow and prosper. I consider myself a professional and take great pride and responsibility in all that I do and would hope South Carolina would see the value in individuals who prove their worth and work ethic.

After all, if you have to have a major operation, would you want the Doctor with 25 years of experience in that procedure, or would you want the student fresh out of medical school? The same should hold true for a Professional Engineer.

I don't know if this letter will change current policy or even if it will make it to your desk, but I hope that it will bring attention to an inadequacy in the South Carolina Professional Engineer licensure process.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to listen to my concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Smith, PE, CIPE
President
Trident Engineering, Inc.

Smith, Michael J.
7010841 5015893