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December 6, 2016

Mr. John Greenhalge
State of Ohio
Engineers and Surveyors Board
77 South High Street, Suite 2472
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Mechanical Engineering Principles & Practices Examination, Plumbing Option

Dear Mr. Greenhalge,

The American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE) is an organization that was formed in 1964 and currently consists of more than 6,300 members who specialize in the design and engineering of plumbing-related systems. The plumbing systems that are designed today are very complex, and people with the knowledge and expertise to effectively and efficiently engineer such systems are needed to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. For instance, designing the components and systems that distribute, soften, deionize, distill, and filter water requires a highly skilled individual who specializes in plumbing systems. Consider the fact that we must also properly treat and dispose of our sanitary, grease, and laboratory wastes. The lives of patients in medical facilities depend on properly designed and engineered medical gas systems such as medical oxygen, medical air, and vacuum. Natural gas is an energy resource that we all depend on, but it can be very dangerous if these systems are not properly engineered. Storm water is taken for granted, but it can be very destructive if not properly removed from our properties and the roofs of our buildings. These are just a few of the systems that require a skilled engineer who has been trained and practices engineering as it applies to plumbing systems.

The Mechanical Engineering Principles and Practices exam offered by the State of Ohio through the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) currently does not have a plumbing sub-discipline. The American Society of Plumbing Engineers cannot stress enough the importance of having this option available for those individuals who are planning a career in the plumbing design field. The health, welfare, and safety of the general public depends on qualified individuals who have been properly educated in engineering and possess the requisite experience in plumbing. The time of the Registered Engineer who specializes in HVAC while dabbling in Plumbing Engineering has passed. These engineers have proven beyond a doubt that they are certainly qualified to design HVAC systems, but plumbing systems have now become too varied and complex for one person to specialize in multiple disciplines. It is now time to add a Plumbing Option within the framework of the Mechanical Engineering Principles and Practices exam. This option will ensure that the Engineers who are sealing and signing plumbing drawings have a level of verifiable knowledge and competency within the discipline. This will also ensure that the health, welfare, and safety of the general public will be protected.

[Just recently, ASPE's own David Dexter, FNSPE, FASPE presented a proposal to incorporate a Plumbing Option with the NCEES' Mechanical Principles and Practices Exam to the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers \(OSPE\) Legislative &](#)

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Governmental Affairs Committee (L&GA) and to the OSPE's Board of Directors. The L&GA Committee approved a resolution of support, and the OSPE Board of Directors then approved that same resolution. There is definitely support within the State of Ohio for this initiative.

On behalf of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers, I am asking the Board to support the development and addition of a Plumbing Option within the Mechanical Engineering examination, and to inform NCEES of this support.

Thank you for considering this very important change in the licensure process.

Sincerely,

Mitch Clemente, CPD, FASPE
President, American Society of Plumbing Engineers

cc Mr. Tim Schaffer
OSPE & EFO
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