



**National Society of Professional Surveyors**  
5119 Pegasus Court, Suite Q, Frederick, MD 21704  
Phone: 240-439-4615 | Fax: 240-439-4952 | www.nspss.us.com

April 3, 2017

Mr. Charles Harkness, PS  
President  
Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio  
150 East Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 300  
Worthington, OH 43085

Re: NSPS "Private Sector Utilization" position statement

Dear President Harkness:

This letter of explanation is sent in response to a recent question posed by PLSO with regard the referenced position statement listed among those addressed with members of the U.S. Congress during the recent joint NSPS/MAPPS Lobby Day.

NSPS supports all licensed Professional Surveyors regardless of whether they are employed in the private or public sector, and takes the position that licensed Professional Surveyors (either by employment or contracting) are required for all activities that fall within the rules/regulations for the practice of surveying as promulgated by the respective state laws. NSPS *does not* take the position that only a Professional Surveyor in private practice *must* perform the surveys conducted for the internal workings of any local, state, or federal agency/department for its own purposes. NSPS *does oppose* the use of the staff (licensed or otherwise) of a local, state, or federal agency for surveys not specifically associated with those internal workings or requirements, and would always request that the expenditure of public moneys be utilized in the acquisition of private sector resources wherever appropriate.

In selecting the issues it proposes that NSPS should either promote or oppose, the NSPS Governmental Affairs Committee is tasked to work with the NSPS lobbyist to determine issues relative to the surveying profession that are also part of the current focus of Congress. This is the most important aspect of the Government Affairs effort in that we do not want to take an issue to the Hill that has no relevance to the current workings of Congressional leadership or their staff. That would be a recipe for a "talk about it and forget about it" attitude by legislators. In the past few years, as we have worked with MAPPS in the joint Lobby Day arrangement, those issues were narrowed down to the ones that affect the surveying and mapping community as a whole in order to create the opportunity for a joint messaging format. In no instance does NSPS agree to promote issues that it considers to be harmful to Professional Surveyors.

With regard to the "Private Sector Utilization" talking point in the 2017 Spring Lobby Day Issues document, NSPS did not, and does not, believe it implies that the positions of Professional Surveyors (and/or their staff) who are in the employ of government at any level should be eliminated. NSPS *does* believe that government-employed Professional Surveyors and/or survey technicians should not undertake private sector projects in competition with private-practice Professional Surveyors. We are happy to further discuss this issue with you, and others within PLSO, if you wish.

Best Regards,

Jan Fokens  
NSPS President

Curtis W. Sumner, LS  
NSPS Executive Director

Patrick Smith  
Chair, NSPS Government Affairs Committee and  
NSPS Past President