

Gov. Holcomb,

In response to your request for recommendations on how to reopen the Indiana economy and get business booming again, the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE) Board of Directors would like to make the following recommendations.

1) Instruct the Indiana Professional Licensing Board to extend the deadline for professional engineers to acquire the professional development hours (PDHs) necessary for licensure renewal. Indiana's Professional Engineers (PEs) are required to obtain 30 PDHs every two years with a renewal deadline of July 31. We have heard from members their employers are no longer covering the cost of PDH courses and conferences due to the outbreak further complicating the ability to obtain hours. The State of Tennessee has extended its deadline for renewing PE licenses and the Michigan Society is requesting the same in their state.

Many design professionals earn their PDHs by attending and participating in conferences. Your declaration of a state-wide stay at home order on March 23 and its recent extension resulted in the cancellation of all public events until the order is lifted. Conferences take many months to plan and prepare and are not easily rescheduled. ISPE is fortunate in that we had the time, technology and skillsets necessary to move our conference to a virtual setting. This however is not the case with many other organizations who ultimately canceled their event making PDHs harder to obtain.

2) Additionally, we would recommend construction sites follow the proposed practices:

- prescreen all workers prior to entering the construction site. Contractors in other states prescreen employees by asking a series of health-related questions and checking temperatures. If a worker shows signs of illness, they are sent home.
- Once on the jobsite, workers should practice social distancing and make use of PPE.
- Additionally, signs should be visibly posted on construction sites to remind workers to practice social distancing, and hygienic practices believed to stem the spread of the coronavirus.
- On jobsites where social distancing is not conducive, we would recommend shutting it down until the pandemic passes.

3) Encourage construction and manufacturing facilities to use robotics, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), exoskeletons, 3-D printers, and other technologies to assist in social distancing. Robotics and UAVs are ever growing tools that allow workers to perform otherwise difficult or dangerous tasks without being exposed to unacceptable health risks.

We are living in a time with challenges not experienced in a century. The global economy has sustained unprecedented damage and all of us want to get back to work and return to normal. As an organization comprised of Professional Engineers throughout the State of Indiana, we have sworn an oath to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens above all else. Our membership stands ready to provide support and subject matter expertise on the construction, manufacturing and licensure efforts of our state at your direction and in support of your goals of safely reopening the economy of Indiana.

Respectfully submitted,



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