

Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chairman Judiciary Committee Room 101, House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Hon. J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair Judiciary Committee Room 101, House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Organization: The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD)

Bill: HB382 - Criminal and Civil Trespass - Professional Land Surveyors - Exception

Position: Support

Chairman Clippinger and Vice-Chair Bartlett,

The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD) is the representative organization for approximately 90 consulting engineering firms of various sizes across the state. These firms play a crucial role in serving both the public and private sectors by actively participating in the design and development of essential infrastructure such as public water and wastewater systems, bridges, highways, building structures, and environmental projects.

Our organization's member firms collectively employ approximately 7,000 individuals statewide, and approximately forty percent of ACEC/MD's membership is comprised of certified small, minority-owned, or women-owned businesses, reflecting our commitment to diversity and inclusion within the engineering industry. We respectfully **support** this bill.

Land surveyors play an integral role in ensuring the responsible and sustainable use of land, and their work is essential for a wide range of industries, including real estate development, infrastructure construction, and environmental conservation. However, the existing laws related to trespass on property can pose significant challenges for professional land surveyors when they need to access private land to perform their duties accurately.

This bill recognizes the unique nature of land surveying and the necessity of allowing professional land surveyors to access properties to carry out their work without the fear of facing criminal charges or civil lawsuits. By establishing these exceptions, the legislation will not only protect the rights and responsibilities of land surveyors but also facilitate a smoother and more efficient process for land development and infrastructure projects in our state.

For any comments, inquiries, or further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at cfaison@acecmd.org.

Respectfully,

Chad Faison Executive Director ACEC/MD