**Talking Points For Calling Your South Carolina State Senator/Representative in**

**Opposition to SC Entrepreneur Freedom Act; Session 125 – (2023-2024) H 3515 General Bill to Repeal South Carolina Code of Laws Title 40, Chapter 77- Professional Geologist Licensure**

***Call or write to your SC State Senator’s or Representative’s.***

***Look up your legislators:*** [***https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php***](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php)

***Contact your legislators:*** [***https://www.scstatehouse.gov/email.php?chamber=B***](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/email.php?chamber=B)

 ***When receptionist for the Senator’s or Representative’s office answers:***

* Good Morning/Afternoon! My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I am a constituent of Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* May I speak with your policy person who handles the **SC Entrepreneur Freedom Act; Session 125 – (2023-2024) H 3515** policy issues?

***If that policy person is NOT available:***

* May I leave you my name and number to have **him/her** contact me?
* Again, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and my number is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* My call is in regards to **opposition to the South Carolina Entrepreneur Freedom Act; Session 125 – (2023-2024) H 3515 General Bill to Repeal South Carolina Code of Laws Title 40, Chapter 77- Professional Geologist Licensure.**
* Thank you for your time and I look forward to visiting with **him/her.**

***If that policy person is available and once he/she is on the phone:***

* Good Morning/Afternoon! My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I am a constituent of Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* My call today is in regards to **opposition to the South Carolina Entrepreneur Freedom Act; Session 125 – (2023-2024) H 3515 General Bill to Repeal South Carolina Code of Laws Title 40, Chapter 77 for Professional Geologist licensure in SC.**
* The proposed bill causes me great concern as a SC-licensed Professional Geologist.

I think having licensed professionals perform the type of work geologists do is critical for the protection of the public. Eliminating professional licensure for geologists would have a significant negative impact on the health and safety of the citizens of South Carolina and negatively impact the economy.

Professional licensure of geologists establishes qualifications through rigorous requirements for higher education, work experience, passing grades on two standardized national examinations (<https://www.asbog.org>), and reference verification to ensure that those who practice are able to provide the level of expertise needed to protect public safety, human health, and the environment.

Licensure elimination removes professional accountability, decreases transparency, and it does not establish an individual’s qualifications through a standardized procedure that is required in most other states throughout the country. Additionally, the proposed licensure elimination reduces credibility and most likely will negatively impact the livelihood of existing and future SC-licensed Professional Geologists that have worked hard to demonstrate a firm commitment to the duties and responsibilities of the geology profession.

Professional Geologist licensure in SC via the SC Board of Registration for Geologists provides needed protection for the health and safety of the citizens of South Carolina by having already verified geologists that practice in South Carolina (who have the skills, knowledge, and abilities to practice) serve on the board to verify licensees credentials and prevent unsafe practices by unqualified and/or negligent individuals.

Several SC state agencies (e.g., SCDHEC, SCDOT) and SC municipalities already require, by statute, that an SC-licensed Professional Geologist perform and seal geological investigations. SC-licensed Professional Geologists are currently working in the state to identify risks and mitigate active hazards, including critical work on assessment and remediation of cancer-causing contaminated industrial sites, geotechnical testing to ensure structural stability of buildings and roads, geohazard/landslide mapping and planning, management of natural resources (mining and water resources), landfills and waste management, and several other vital projects that are extremely important to the well-being of the citizens and economy of South Carolina.

Again, I strongly urge you to not support the South Carolina Entrepreneur Freedom Act; Session 125 – (2023-2024) H 3515 General Bill to Repeal South Carolina Code of Laws Title 40, Chapter 77- GEOLOGISTS. Elimination of SC-licensure for Professional Geologists is a threat to public health, safety, and welfare as it allows for a secondary class of people with uncertain qualifications to practice in South Carolina without any accountability to the public through the SC Board of Registration for Geologists. This could provide a means for individuals who have had past ethical and safety violations, convicted felons, or those with revoked licenses due to malpractice in other states to practice geology and potentially endanger the citizens of South Carolina with no accountability available. Additionally, H3515 serves to weaken the profession of geology in the State of South Carolina, making South Carolina geologists less competitive in other states and are particularly damaging to geologists who own and operate small businesses.

The SC Labor Licensing and Regulation’s Board of Registration for Geologists provides an essential function for the public health, safety, and welfare of South Carolinians.

(*Give a short personal story about your background on the issue; emphasize the importance to public health and safety)*

* If you should need any further information, please feel free to reach out to myself (**GIVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO THE POLICY PERSON)**,
* May I grab your name again, your number and email (if not obtained already), just for my records as well?

***Once you have his/her contact information:***

* I really appreciate your time, and I hope we can count on the Senator’s/Representative’s support to continue the PG license to protect the health and safety of South Carolinians.
* Thank You!

***Please make any necessary notes and comments, and please report back to Jonathan Gerst, AEG Vice Chair (jgerst@peakhydrogeologic.com) how your call went, and if you received any feedback or support from their office.***