

Attention:
Engineering Ambassadors!

*Are you ready to protect our profession's
future—today?*

Ask OSPE how you can establish a long-lasting relationship with your legislators that will help protect professional engineering and help us do our job protecting the public!

We'll show you how to invite your legislators to a "Backyard B-B-Q."

We'll help you determine who your state representative and state senator are and how easy it is to ask them to meet with you and your OSPE chapter!

Call OSPE at 1-800-654-9481 (223-1144 in Columbus) to find out how to organize your own Backyard B-B-Q.

It's easy!



**Ohio Society of
Professional Engineers**

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

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*Giving
Testimony at
Ohio's Statehouse*



**Ohio Society of
Professional Engineers**

The voice of Ohio's Professional Engineers

"Giving Testimony at the Ohio Statehouse"

Make your experience enjoyable!

When giving testimony to an Ohio House or Senate committee, remember that the people whom you are addressing probably do not know you or much about your issue. You are testifying to educate them.

So, be tolerant of their questions and their desire to get the information accurately. Here are some helpful hints to help you enjoy the experience.

1. Arrive early and fill out a witness slip. Hand it to the committee chair's aide when you complete it. Witnesses are usually called in order of who submits them the slips first, unless you request a special order.

2. When you are called to testify, inform the chair that you have copies of your testimony available for the members of the committee. The chair will then ask an aide to distribute your copies to the committee or instruct you to come forward. Make sure you know how many copies to have available, and bring a few extra for media, lobbyists, etc.

3. Start your testimony with a proper introduction....

"Mr. Chairman, members of the Ohio House/Senate Committee on _____, my name is _____, and I am a registered professional engineer in Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today about...."

4. Close your remarks with an invitation to ask questions....

"Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, this concludes my remarks. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have for me."

5. If asked a question by a member of the committee, always preface your answer -- as well as every follow up remark you make -- with a proper recognition of the chair....

"Mr. Chairman, Representative/Senator _____, the answer to your question is...."

6. Never challenge or risk insulting a member of the committee. If you disagree with a member or a member disagrees with your testimony, never engage in a debate or fight. *If you must respond*, acknowledge what common understanding the two of you do have, then try to find a logical answer to their question to bring them to your side.

7. Have fun!

You are participating in Democracy in a way that most people never have an opportunity. Enjoy yourself!