**Steps to be Taken Regularly/ How to be Proactive in Protecting Licensure and Other Geologic Programs**

1.     Understand how your state legislature works.

a.      When are they in session, when are deadlines, etc.

b.     Identify committees that bills would be referred to regarding AEG issues

2.     Stay current on who is in office

3.     Take opportunities to meet with senator / representative / legislative committee consultants that work AEG topic areas

a.      Introduce yourself and AEG, explain why licensure is important in your state, what is a geologist and applicable projects that are critical for a professional geologist to be a part of – good to cite project in your state that went poorly when a geologist wasn’t consulted or their advice not followed (ie CA – Oroville Dam)

b.     This step could greatly reduce the “Angie’s List” approach to eliminate needless licenses

c.      Provide a one page fact sheet to leave behind visits, have a larger packet of information available for key members and staff

4.     Offer to be a resource   for senator / representative / legislative committees

5.     Identify senator / representative / legislative committees who will be ‘allies’ if a bill to eliminate licensure is proposed.  Call prior to beginning of session and periodically to see if they hear of anything in the works. The point is to never get to the point of anything being written. Much easier to fight.

6.     Stay current each year on list of bills by monitoring your state’s legislative website. Monitoring should be done at a minimum on a weekly basis. Several states have compiled lists of key words to help more efficiently flag bills that could be a problem. A copy of the key word list is attached and also available on the AEG Website (after signing on, go to “resources” and then to “licensure resources” and follow the prompts).

7.     Create email list of geologist professional societies in the state who can help advocate for geologist-related issues.

a.      State Licensure board, Groundwater Resource Association, - these resource may know someone who can help when an issue comes up

b. Remember that some state boards cannot advocate for political issues, but members can still serve as resources.

**If a bill to eliminate licensure is found:**

1.     Contact the legislative committee who drafted the bill to get more information/see if it is an oversight that can be removed.

2.     Identify who is sponsoring the bill, meet with the author's office immediately and present your concerns and let them know you will unfortunately have to oppose if they proceed.

3.      Meet with Committee staff early in the process to let them know your concerns.  Also provide a packet of information for the committee staff which will help them in developing the analysis.

4.      Send an Alert to communicate to email list of geologists with the problem and what is being done, and contact the AEG Licensure Committee.

a.     who (has been contacted within the legislature,

b.    what more information is needed,

c.     what is the status of the bill and when are the next major deadlines voting – rewrites?

d.    What is needed – contact of someone from the legislative party, letters of opposition

e.     Get letters of opposition sent to Author, committee consultants, members of the committee as soon as the bill is sent to the committee. Letters should reflect issues related to public health, safety and welfare. Sample letters are available on the AEG website.

f. Determine whether there may be a need for help from a lobbyist and funding to do so. If needed, obtain the appropriate form from the AEG website. The form is in MS Word and is formatted so that it can be easily filled out and, if needed, edited.

5.     Write a letter to your senator / representative / legislative committees on behalf of AEG and other respected professional entities

6.     Stick with it to the end, even if it the bill is rewritten to remove the language it can be added back in at the last minute. Need to continue to monitor.

(by Meredith Beswick, Chair, Sacramento Chapter, with minor edits by the Licensure Committee)