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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG



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Via email only

irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

Internal Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Final Form Regulation #57-335; IRRC No. 3330

Dear Commissioners:

As Chairman of the House Professional Licensure Committee I write to raise a concern about the Public Utility Commission's proposed final form regulation at 52 Pa. Code § 59.142 which states:

- (a) A land agent employed or contracted by a hazardous liquid public utility must hold a valid Pennsylvania professional license in one of the following fields: attorney, real estate salesperson, real estate broker, professional engineer, professional land surveyor or professional geologist.
- (b) A land agent's Pennsylvania professional license must be in good standing during the performance of the land agent work or services on behalf of a hazardous liquid public utility.

While I appreciate an effort to establish some form of standardization in the training and preparation of land agents, I am concerned as to how the regulation has attempted to achieve this. When new licenses and certifications are created by the General Assembly, the training, exams and experience required is provided in statute so that individuals performing the same job are assured to have a consistent background and training. The training of an attorney versus a geologist or real estate salesperson, for example, would be vastly different. I question how this collection of professions, all of which are not even overseen by the same state agency, was assembled.

Regulating professions has significant impacts on citizens' ability to work. Earning the credentials identified above takes years and may serve as a barrier to entry for individuals able/willing to serve as land agents in Pennsylvania. If there is an interest or a need to establish licensure, certification or registration for land agents, that should be a matter for the General Assembly to decide.

Sincerely,

Frank Burns, Majority Chairman
House Professional Licensure Committee