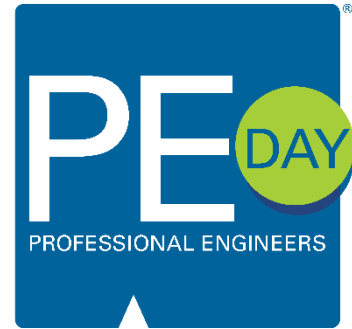


## **PE Day Advocate Visit**

**August 7, 2019**

We are asking our member of the House of Representatives to protect the language found in H.R. 2139 that requires a PE to approve of all covered tasks and ensure that this language does not get watered down by amendments and other changes. We suggest this can be done by either cosponsoring, showing support for, and eventually passing the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act as is or amending any pipeline reauthorization bill with language found in the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act.

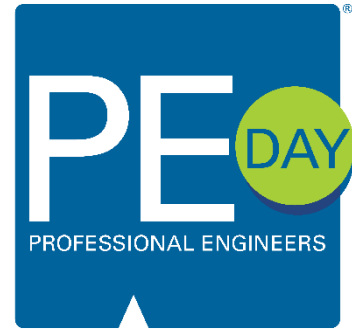


NSPE supports the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act because ending engineering license exemptions has long been a priority for NSPE. Putting PEs in responsible charge of covered tasks for public utility gas pipelines, as H.R. 2139 establishes, creates an added layer of protection for the public. NSPE prioritizes the health, safety, and welfare of the public and believes the development and implementation of clear, robust emergency procedures, as required in H.R. 2139, is in the public's best interest.

In the fall of 2018, over-pressurized gas pipelines exploded, destroying several homes and killing one person. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) conducted an investigation and noted that a professional engineer was not required to review or approve construction plans for the pipeline; Massachusetts ended their licensing exemption in response to the NTSB's recommendation. Requiring a professional engineer to review and approve changes to gas pipelines adds a layer of protection for the public and ensures that the engineer in responsible charge has both the expertise and ethical obligation to best protect the public. In cases where the engineer on the pipeline is not a licensed PE, they might have more of an obligation to their company and less of an obligation to the public.

## **PE Day Advocate Visit**

**August 7, 2019**



We are asking the Senator to reinstate or support the reinstatement of the original language from the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act in S. 2299. The original language required that a professional engineer approve of all covered tasks. NSPE does not support the weakening of the PE requirement to read that “relevant personnel,” defined as “an engineer with a professional engineer license, subject matter expert, or other employee who possesses the necessary knowledge, experience, and skills regarding natural gas distribution systems,” are in place to oversee covered tasks on the pipelines. This change does not protect the public in the same way that requiring that a PE be in responsible charge. This change does not require pipeline operators to behave any differently than they do now or meet a standard of having an ethical obligation to protecting the public. If this language is to stay, we want the Senate to reinstate the original language.

NSPE supports the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act because ending engineering license exemptions has long been a priority for NSPE. Putting PEs in responsible charge of covered tasks for public utility gas pipelines, as S. 1097 establishes, creates an added layer of protection for the public. NSPE prioritizes the health, safety, and welfare of the public and believes the development and implementation of clear, robust emergency procedures, as required in S. 1097, is in the public’s best interest.

In the fall of 2018, over-pressurized gas pipelines exploded, destroying several homes and killing one person. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) conducted an investigation and noted that a professional engineer was not required to review or approve construction plans for the pipeline; Massachusetts ended their licensing exemption in response to the NTSB’s recommendation. Requiring a professional engineer to review and approve changes to gas pipelines adds a layer of protection for the public and ensures that the engineer in responsible charge has both the expertise and ethical obligation to best protect the public. In cases where the engineer on the pipeline is not a licensed PE, they might have more of an obligation to their company and less of an obligation to the public.