June 3, 2014

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: ASSE’s Illinois Members Urge You to Veto SB 3287

Dear Governor Quinn:

Headquartered in Des Plaines, Illinois, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is the oldest, largest membership society of safety, health and environmental (SH&E) professionals. ASSE represents members in every state, across the globe and in every industry who work diligently to help employers make sure their workers can return safe and healthy to their families each day.

ASSE joins with more than 50 other Illinois organizations and companies to urge you to veto SB 3287 so that every one of our nearly 1500 members who live and work in Illinois can continue to help employers protect the lives of workers in this state.

SB 3287 would unfairly strip independent safety consultants of immunity from law suits they are now given under the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Act but continue to give the same protection to companies and insurers providing the very same safety services. The negative impact of SB 3287 on hundreds of hard working, small business people who are safety consultants in Illinois will be to increase their professional liability insurance and make it much more difficult for them to provide safety consulting services that help keep Illinois workers safe.

More importantly, with less safety consultants, many small and medium sized Illinois companies will find it much more difficult to obtain safety consulting services. While safety services provided by employers and insurance companies are not affected, only a small percentage of Illinois employers – most of them large – are able to have a safety and health
professional on staff and fewer and fewer insurance companies offering safety services. The independent safety consultants HB 3287 targets for increased law suits are the safety consultants most medium and nearly all small employers rely on to help make their workplaces safe.

The hard-working, dedicated men and women who provide independent safety consulting services do not deserve to be singled out by the Illinois Legislature as a target for the trial bar. And the people of Illinois do not deserve to lose the services they provide. With fewer consultants able to offer these protections, the chance an Illinois worker will be injured or killed on the job will rise, the state’s workers’ compensation rates will rise, and even more Illinois jobs will be lost due to the high cost of doing business in Illinois.

For the good of Illinois, we urge you to veto HB 3287.

Sincerely,

Kathy A. Seabrook CSP, CMIOSH, EurOSHM
President