

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1901-1902

1771

HLC

HB 595.

Mr. Richard H. Long
Chief Investigator
Division of Occupational Licensing
October 4, 1981
Page seven.

Conclusion:

In my considered judgment, there has not been any major contribution made by the Board of Welding Examiners toward upgrading the overall quality of welding within the state since its inception. In fact, it appears that the only achievement of the Board has been in the area of acquiring a quite large number of individuals who now possess an Alaska State Welding Inspectors License.

Since it is acknowledged throughout industry that quality cannot be inspected into a fabricated item, but must be trained into the individuals who are performing the work on the fabrication, it seems unreasonable to place so much emphasis on the need for increased inspection.

It is acknowledged that industry has adopted standards which require certain welded fabrications to be inspected prior to going to the consumer, however, it is also acknowledged that need is lessened when the individuals are trained to perform the task.

In view of the foregoing, it is again recommended that the Sunsetting Board of Welding Examiners Laws be deactivated and that the use of public funds to continue enforcement of the board laws and rules for the years grace period be discontinued.

Thank you for your assistance and attention to this matter.

attachments:

List of state licensed Welding Inspectors
Copy of Legislative Audit Report
NO. 88-21-1004-R

Respectfully ours,

Louie J. Rousseau
Welding Application Methods
2700 Porcupine Drive
Anchorage, AK 99501

C.C.

FEB, 7, 1982

REPRESENTATIVE TERRY MARTIN, CHAIRMAN
LEGISLATIVE HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
TWELFTH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
POUCH V
SIKNEAU, ALASKA 99811

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT (HB 595)
BE PASSED REESTABLISHING THE
STATE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS

Res P

Donald R. Jewood
Welder / Sheet metal mechanic



copy June 20

Anchorage Tank & Welding, Inc.

2700 Porcupine Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 272-3543

MAY 28, 1981

REPRESENTATIVE VERNON HURLBERT, CHAIRMAN
HOUSE COMMITTEE OF LABOR & COMMERCE
CAPITAL ROOM 517
POUCH V STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, AK. 99811

HB595

DEAR VERN;

PLEASE EXCUSE THE COMPUTER LETTER, IT'S OUR ONLY TYPEWRITER.

WHILE YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER ME I HAVE TALKED TO YOU AT LENGTH ABOUT TWO SUBJECTS. ONE WAS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO ABOUT THE STATE LAND LEASING POLICIES WITH A FELLOW NAMED JOE WILHOUR. THE OTHER WAS WHEN I WROTE YOU A LETTER LAST YEAR ABOUT THE INCOME TAX REPEAL, AND YOU CALLED ME AT HOME ABOUT IT.

NOW THAT I AM WITH ANCHORAGE TANK & WELDING, SOMETHING HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION WHICH IS ANOTHER REGULATORY BURDEN TO THE SMALL BUSINESSMAN. I'VE ENCLOSED SOME INFORMATION WHICH I HOPE YOU WILL LOOK AT.

THE CONTINUED EXISTANCE OF THE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS IS UP FOR REVIEW UNDER THE SUNSET LAW. IT'S CLEAR HOWEVER THAT LEGISLATIVE AUDITORS DON'T THINK ITS WORTH KEEPING. THIS IS THE GENERAL CONCERN OF THOSE OF US IN THE FABRICATION BUSINESS. ALSO, IT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DIE BECAUSE IT REALLY DOESN'T PROVIDE ANY PUBLIC SAFETY NOT ALREADY CALLED FOR ON PROJECTS BY SPECIFICATION.

Tanks — Fuel, Septic, Skid Mounted, Oilfield Special Designs
Structural & Misc. Fabrication, Pipe Fabrication
Welding To ASME, API & AWS Codes

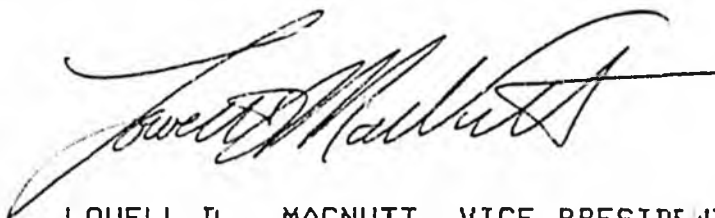
IT DOES, HOWEVER INSURE THE CONTINUATION OF THE WELDING SCHOOL OWNED AND OPERATED BY ITS CHAIRMAN AND THEREFORE HB595 TO CONTINUE THE BOARD HAS BEEN REFERRED TO YOUR COMMITTEE.

IF YOU FEEL THIS BILL COMMANDS THE PRIORITY TO BE BROUGHT OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL AS YOU DID BEFORE. I AM SURE I CAN GIVE YOU A LOT MORE DETAIL IN SUPPORT OF OUR POSITION IN JUST A FEW MINUTES.

IF YOU FEEL IT DOES HAVE TO SURFACE, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE YOUR OFFICE CONTACT ME AS, IF NECESSARY, WE WOULD COME DOWN TO TESTIFY AT A HEARING.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

ANCHORAGE TANK & WELDING, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lowell D. Macnutt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

LOWELL D. MACNUTT, VICE PRESIDENT

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
DON GILMAN
REPRESENTING
DISTRICT 13
KENAI PENINSULA



HOME ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 630
KENAI, ALASKA 99611
(907) 283-4182
DURING SESSION
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

State Senate

February 5, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Terry Martin
Chairman
House Labor and Commerce Committee

FROM: Senator *Don Gilman*

SUBJECT: Status of House Bill 595

In light of the attached letter, I would appreciate your letting me know your intentions in regard to House Bill 595.

cc: Harry Barnes



PENINSULA INSTITUTE OF WELDING TECHNOLOGY

WELDING TRAINING & WELDER CERTIFICATION
AWS CERTIFIED
ALASKA STATE WELDING INSPECTOR LIC. NO. AA0100

P.O. BOX 907
KENAI, ALASKA 99611
(907) 776-5292

Page 1 of 2

JANUARY 25, 1982

CHAIRMAN TERRY MARTIN
LEGISLATIVE HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
TWENTH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that this important piece of Legislative Business has been put on the back burner of importance by the last Legislature. As was brought to everyone's attention by the construction of the Oil Pipeline, a serious lacking of qualified Alaskan Welding Inspectors was apparent. With the possibility of pending construction of the gas pipeline, and other major construction projects, the deletion of this legislation would be of no benefit to the State of Alaska, and in fact a tremendous disservice to Alaska and Alaskans.

It is our opinion that the State Board of Welding Examiners and State licensing of welding inspectors has been effective and has done a valuable service to the citizens of the State of Alaska by increasing the quality of welders and quality of construction. We also support the necessity of the Board of Welding Examiners as they are the only means of policing the regulations.

Licensing Welding Inspectors in our opinion is the only feasible way to protect the public without increasing the bureaucracy.

As you know, if HB 595 is not acted upon before June 1982 the Board and licensing will be terminated and the State will have no guidelines for welding quality in Alaska and this would be another serious disservice to the Alaskan public.



Enclosed are several documents containing information pertaining to this issue:

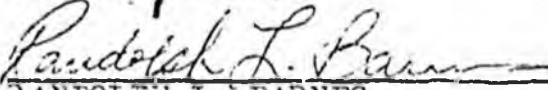
1. An overview of the sunset process.
2. A copy of HB #595 currently in the Labor and Commerce Committee.
3. A probable successful route for HB #595.

With your support, this legislation can be enacted between the beginning of the new legislative term in January and the June of 1982 deadline, if it is moved properly through the various committees to the floor.

At your February meeting we implore you to act in favor of retaining the Board and licensing as it presently exists.

Sincerely,


 HARRY F. BARNES



 RANDOLPH L. BARNES

- CC A.P. ADAMS (REP.)
 J.G. FULLER (REP.)
 H. MALONE (REP.)
 P.M. O'CONNELL (REP.)
 D. BENNETT (SEN.)
 M.E. DANKWORTH (SEN.)
 D.E. GILMAN (SEN.)
 T. KELLY (SEN.)
 B. MULCAHY (SEN.)
 J. HAMMOND (GOV.)

OVERVIEW : SUNSET REVIEW PROCESS

State law requires that licensing boards justify their existence approximately every five years.

The sunset review process involves the following basic steps.

- 1- A termination date is set by statute for an existing board.
- 2- A performance audit of the board is conducted by the Division of Legislative Audit during the calendar year prior to the termination date.
- 3- During the session immediately preceding the termination date the legislature sets up a committee* to hold hearings and make recommendations to the legislature on the board under review. At these hearings the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the interested public give testimony.
- 4- Based on the hearing testimony, the findings of the performance audit and any other factors that the legislature wishes to consider, a decision is made to :
 - A) eliminate the licensing process,
 - B) modify the licensing process, or
 - C) continue the licensing process unchanged.

The fundamental questions that underlie the sunset review process are :

- 1- Is the licensing process necessary to protect the public from serious and likely harm? What alternatives to the present licensing process exist?
- 2- Is the board necessary to the licensing process? Is board licensing the most effective way to protect the public? Is board licensing the most economical way of protecting the public? Is board licensing the most desirable way to protect the public?

Other less fundamental, but often equally important, questions are raised during the sunset review process, usually by the performance audit. These questions usually include :

- 1- How efficiently has the board been operating?
- 2- How responsive has the board been to the public?
- 3- Has the board been unnecessarily restricting entry into the profession?
- 4- How conscientious has the board been in meeting its statutory and other obligations?

* committee of reference

February 11, 1982

Chairman Terry Martin
Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature

Mr. Martin:

I just received notice of the possibility of your doing away with the State Licensing of Weld Inspectors. I personally, am most decidedly against this both professionally and personally. I am a licensed Inspector in your state and it took many hours of toil and study to accumulate the various certifications required.

It bothers me to think that you consider the job of Weld Inspector so lightly that you make it possible for the various companies to go back to the brother-in-law system where I, with 8 years of experience could work equally or underneath a man who is putting in his first day in Weld Inspection.

There are various environmental groups who could and would make very good use of you discontinuing this program. I have seen a lot of problems in various nuclear plants that would have been lessened or eliminated if they would have had a good competent crew of Inspectors.

I certainly hope that you don't make this mistake.

Sincerely,

Jon Elliott

Jon Elliott

613 Rd 47

Pasco, Wa 99301



Anchorage Tank & Welding, Inc.

2700 Porcupine Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 272-3543

FEBRUARY 10, 1982

THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE TERRY MARTIN, CHAIRMAN
STATE HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

RE: HB595, CONTINUANCE OF THE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN:

WE ARE WRITING AS ONE OF YOUR CONSTITUANTS IN THE MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA TO URGE YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS TO TERMINATE. WE DO NOT ENDORSE ITS EXISTANCE PROVIDED REGULATIONS ARE CHANGED; WE ARE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO ITS BEING IN ANY FORM, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. STEEL FABRICATORS SUCH AS OURSELVES, HAVE STRUCTURED OUR ORGANIZATIONS TO COMPLY WITH AND TO CONFORM TO NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CODES PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE CUSTOMER BASE WE SEEK DEMANDS THE TYPE OF QUALITY REQUIRED BY THESE CODES IN THEIR PROJECTS. THE END USERS OF FABRICATIONS WHERE SAFETY AND/OR ECOLOGICAL REGULATIONS MUST BE COMPLIED WITH, ARE REQUIRED BY EXISTING LAWS TO SPECIFY CERTAIN NATIONALLY ACCEPTED CODES AND STANDARDS TO WHICH THESE PRODUCTS MUST BE MANUFACTURED. THESE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE ADHERED TO BY FABRICATORS WITHOUT EXCEPTION. IT IS OUR EXPERIENCE THAT THIS TYPE OF CUSTOMER REQUIRES PROOF OF

Tanks — Fuel, Septic, Skid Mounted, Oilfield Special Designs
Structural & Misc. Fabrication, Pipe Fabrication
Welding To ASME, API & AWS Codes

QUALIFIED SHOP WELDING PROCEDURES AND PERFORMANCE QUALIFICATION OF WELDERS PRIOR TO THE START OF ANY WELDING FABRICATION. IN ADDITION, THESE CUSTOMERS REQUIRE THAT WE PROVIDE ACCESS TO OUR FACILITY FOR INSPECTION OF THE WELDING BY THEIR OWN INSPECTION PERSONNEL DURING MANUFACTURE OF THEIR PRODUCT. IT IS THEREFOR READILY APPARENT, THAT WITH ADHERANCE TO NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CODES AND STANDARDS, AS WELL AS CUSTOMER INSPECTION OF CRITICAL WELDMENTS DURING FABRICATION, ADDITIONAL INSPECTION BY STATE LICENCED PERSONNEL ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING EXCEPT TO ADD ADDITIONAL AND UNNECESSARY EXPENSE TO THE PROJECT.

2. IT IS OBVIOUSLY IN OUR BEST INTEREST AS A FABRICATOR TO INSURE THE QUALITY OF OUR PRODUCT SO THAT WE CAN OBTAIN THE WORK WE DO, THEREBY ENABLING US TO KEEP OUR CUSTOMERS AND AVOID THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH POOR QUALITY WORK. WE ACCOMPLISH THIS BY CONFORMING TO NATIONALLY ACCEPTED CODES AND STANDARDS AND THROUGH IN HOUSE TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF OUR WELDING PROCEDURES AND WELDERS AS PROVIDED BY THESE CODES. OUR TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION IS CONDUCTED AND PERFORMED BY INDIVIDUALS AND TESTING FIRMS OF OUR CHOICE WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR CAPABILITY TO COMPLY WITH OUR OWN AND OUR CUSTOMERS STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE REGULATIONS OF THIS STATE, PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS, WE ARE COMPELED TO HIRE A STATE LICENCED WELDING INSPECTOR TO WITNESS OUR WELDER QUALIFICATION ACTIVITY IN ORDER FOR HIM TO SIGN OFF ON THE PERFORMANCE QUALIFICATION TEST RECORD. IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT HE, THE STATE LICENCED WELDING INSPECTOR, MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO CONTRIBUTION TOWARD UPGRADING OUR WELDERS. NON THE LESS, WE ARE SADDLED WITH THIS UNNECESSARY INTRUSION AND EXPENSE.

3. STATE LICENCED WELDING INSPECTORS, (INCIDENTLY, THE ONLY REQUIRED LICENCEES BY THE STATE AT THIS TIME), DO NOTHING TO FURTHER THE ADHERANCE TO A PARTICULAR CODE AND DO NOTHING TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF WORK PERFORMED. ANY

PERSON WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR WELDING INSPECTORS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE STATE AS COMPETANT TO ACT AS SUCH. THIS ELIMINATES THE NECESSITY OF LICENCING THESE INDIVIDUALS BY THE STATE AND THE PUBLIC EXPENSE ASSOCIATED THEREWITH.

4. YOUR COMMITTEE HAS BEFORE IT, A REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP REVIEW OF THE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS, PERFORMED BY THE DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT WHICH CONCLUDES:

''IN OUR OPINION, THERE IS NOT A SUFFICIENT PUBLIC NEED FOR CONTINUING EITHER THE BOARD OR STATE LICENCING OF WELDING INSPECTORS.''

WE BELIEVE THAT LEGISLATIVE AUDITS AND SUNSET LAWS WERE PROVIDED BY LEGISLATORS SUCH AS YOURSELF WHO SAW THE NECESSITY OF DISCONTINUING UNNECESSARY REGULATORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. WE BELIEVE ALSO THAT WHEN AN OPINION IS THIS SUCCINCTLY AND UNAMBIGUOUSLY WRITTEN, THERE MUST BE OVERWHELMING ADVERSE EVIDENCE TO REFUTE THE AUDIT BEFORE A COMMITTEE SHOULD EVEN CONSIDER REVERSING THEIR FINDINGS.

5. FINALLY, AS 08:01.025 STATES:

''NO PUBLIC MEMBER OF A BOARD MAY:

(1)BE ENGAGED IN THE OCCUPATION WHICH THE BOARD REGULATES

(3)HAVE A DIRECT FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE OCCUPATION WHICH THE BOARD REGULATES.''

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS WHO IS ALSO APPARENTLY THE STRONGEST SUPPORTER THEREOF, VIOLATES BOTH OF THESE PROVISIONS BY OWNING AND OPERATING A WELDER TRAINING AND TESTING FACILITY WHICH ACTIVELY TESTS FOR LICENCING, STATE WELDING INSPECTORS. HOWEVER, STATE REGULATIONS SHOULD NOT REQUIRE THE NEED FOR TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION FACILITIES SUCH AS THIS, FOR THE LICENCING OF WELDING INSPECTORS WHEN THE MECHANISM IS

AVAILABLE ON A NATIONAL LEVEL FROM THE AMERICAN WELDING
SOCIETY.

IN CONCLUSION, WE ASK YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE, AFTER REVIEWING
THESE AND OTHER FACTS, TO HOLD HB 595 IN YOUR COMMITTEE AND
THEREBY ALLOW THIS BOARD TO TERMINATE

VERY TRULY YOURS

ANCHORAGE TANK & WELDING, INC.

LOWELL D, MACNUTT, VICE-PRESIDENT

February 25, 1982

Representative Terry Martin
Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the re-establishment of H.B. 595. I fully agree with the legislative audit of 1979, and its follow-up in 1980 that the need for the continuation of the State of Alaska Board of Welding Examiners does not exist.

I feel that the state should allow private industry to manage its own welding and welding inspection programs in accordance with the widely used and nationally recognized codes and standards. It appears to me that the Board and its continuations is wanted solely because of personal gains, and not really in the public's best interest.

I have considerable experience in welding, both as a welder and now a Welding Engineer, and I have never seen such a mess and dealt with so many incompetent welding inspectors.

Please do us all a favor and abolish the State of Alaska Board of Welding Examiners.

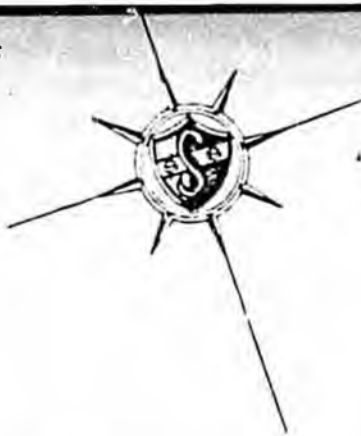
Sincerely,

Lee A. Gabrielson

Lee A. Gabrielson

Steel Distributors

FOR THE NORTHWEST
AND ALASKA



STACK STEEL

Co of Alaska

1200 W. DOWLING — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502 (907) 279-0691

February 24, 1982

The Honorable Terry Martin - Chairman
Legislative House Labor and Commerce Committee
Twenty Fifth Alaska State Legislator
Pouch V (Interdepartmental Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Subject: Sunseted Board of Welding Examiners Statutes
AS08.99 and Regulations 12ACC72, House Bill
595, and Senate Bill 757.

Dear Honorable Terry Martin:

Recently I have had occasion to study the statutes and Regulations contained in the subject Board of Welding Examiners and House Bill 595 for continuation of the Board. In addition, I have reviewed the Legislative "Follow-up" Review Audit conducted 11-24-80 by your Legislative Auditor Gerald L. Wilkerson.

After studying the statutes and Regulations covered in the subject item along with my indepth review of the audit findings as well as taking special note of the rebuttal to the audit report signed by the Chairman of the Board of Welding Examiners; I find that we at Stack Steel, are in total agreement with the underscored conclusions of the Legislative Auditor, identified as: "Prior Audit Recommendation No. 1 Page -5-.

In review of the Chairman of the Boards rebuttal to the audit findings it is noted, that his primary argument for maintaining the Board of Welding Examiners is based solely on the need for "State licensing" of the welding inspector as the single instrument that will maintain quality and protect the public.

It should be noted by you and your committee panel members, that in the Chairman of the Boards rebuttal no comment or apparent thought is given to the many other significant items that must be taken into account, with a view toward public safety before, the welding inspector is even assigned to the job of inspection. For example, items which the

design engineer and the welding engineer (assuming a welded fabrication) must attend to in compliance with the existing National Accepted Codes, Federal and State Government Regulations and Practices, which are relevant to the item to be fabricated. Some of those items which the design engineer and welding engineer must take into consideration and attend to, are:

- 1) Establish the necessary quality criteria for the job under consideration.
- 2) Determine what Codes, Standards, and Government regulations apply.
- 3) Prepare design drawings of the item to be fabricated.
- 4) Prepare fabrication specifications, which identifies: the applicable Codes/Standards to be used. Identifies the base materials, welding materials, and welding processes. Establishes the quality requirement and the level of inspection required for the specific job.

From the criteria identified in the fabrication specifications, the welding inspector and/or other inspectors (dependent on the type of fabrication) can be assigned by their employer to his specific inspection task. Most certainly the inspectors performance on the job will and must be measured by his employer whether a State license is required or not.

A very important item that should be considered is the fact that the State licensing of the individual inspectors places no assurance or warranty for the inspectors on-the-job, performance. In that consideration, and assuming that the inspector lacks insufficient welding inspection knowledge but still holds the State license, one of two things can happen. That is, dependent on the caliber of the firm which employs that type of an inspector; 1) his employment will be terminated or 2) he may be retained by the employer simply for window dressing because of the State license.

In either case the State license requirement will not have made any contribution toward guaranteeing or assuring welding quality.

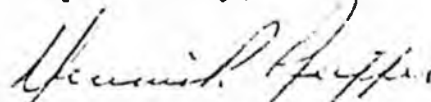
We in private industry dealing in welded fabrications are concerned with economics in this competitive market. Being concerned we know that we will not stay in business if the welded fabrication or welded products which we produce do not meet our customers quality requirement. Therefore we work with the existing National Accepted Codes/Standards Federal, State, Borough, and Municipality Regulations which are already in place and required.

We have not seen in the past, any significant benefit in welding quality or added protection of the public from the Board of Welding Examiners regulation. As the regulations are now written in the present Board Statutes and considering the existing and apparent conflicts of interest by some Board members, we believe it would be in the best interest of the State to terminate the Board of Welding Examiners and cease any further expenditure of public funds other than allowing the Board time to gather up records to send to archive files and close up shop!

Thank you for your attention and consideration to this matter.

I will be looking forward to your reply.

Respectfully,



DENNIS R. PFEIFFER
General Manager
Stack Steel Co. of Alaska

DRF/vs

cc: House Finance Committee - Chairman Albert P. Adams
House Judiciary Committee - Chairman Romona L. Barnes
Senate Finance Committee - Co Chairman Don Bennett
Senate Judiciary Committee - Chairman Patrick M. Rodey
Senate Labor & Commerce - Chairman Robert Mulcaby
Senate Rules Committee - Chairman Tim Kelly

3651 McGinnis Dr.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
February 17, 1982

Legislative House and Labor Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Attn: Representative Terry Martin

Gentlemen:

I am writing in support of HB 595. It is my opinion that there is a continuing need for State involvement in the area of welding regulation and inspection to assure that adequate standards are maintained and that high quality weldments are produced. There is no margin for error - failure is generally catastrophic, and often times fatal to those involved.

I feel that the current system of State licensing of welding inspectors is realistic and workable although there are several areas in the existing regulations where modifications are desirable. I will not elaborate here. My primary concern is that if the Board is not reconstituted the existing regulations will have no statutory basis and in essence we will have no State regulation. If the Legislature should not choose to enact HB 595 then the existing regulations should be adopted in the statutes by reference. The problem with this alternative is that there would be no convenient forum readily available for modifying and improving existing regulations.

Other alternatives such as the creation of a WELDING BUREAU would be a step in the opposite direction since it would create a new layer of government regulation with the strong probability of bureaucratic bungling and regulatory abuse. I don't think we need, nor can we afford, a super "watchdog agency" monitoring every "Joe Dokes" welding operation that takes place in Alaska. It is my opinion that the Welding Board represents a low budget, high talent organization and is the logical body to give direction, provide guidance and disseminate information to the welding industry in Alaska. In fact, I believe Alaska is far ahead of those states who have not adopted welding standards. At least we have a uniform statewide standard to guide the welding fraternity and not a maze of conflicting and varying standards that exist between many of the cities and counties of our sister states.

It is rather obvious that a serious technological gap presently exists in Alaska between the engineer or the designer and the person who is actually performing the welding operation. To be certain there are good designers and good welders but few professional structural engineers are knowledgeable about the technical and practical aspects of welding. By the same token few welders have knowledge of the engineering technology associated with the design of welded structures. The certified welding inspector fulfills this technological gap. Although there are not nearly enough of these technicians available considerable progress has been made in recent years simply because of the Boards adoption of the American Welding Society Certified Welding Inspector program. As I see it, non-continuation of the board would constitute a general de-emphasizing of the importance of welding and weld quality in Alaska and would constitute a step backward rather than a step forward.

It has been suggested that industry is capable of self regulation. This may be true in some instances but it certainly is not universal. Even the largest companies with well managed quality control programs have their share of problems involving weld deficiencies. The Alyeska pipeline project was no exception.

The problem is that the small fabricator and construction firm does not normally possess, nor can he afford, the luxury of quality assurance personnel. Here is where the public need exists. As a long time employee of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities I can personally attest to numerous instances of weld failure and poor weld quality in public structures. In fact, the Department has recently been involved in litigation on two major projects over poor weld quality accomplished by supposedly knowledgeable contractors. Some of the weldments produced were so bad that they simply defy explanation. Bear in mind that these structures were designed by professional engineers and welded by certified welders. Had it not been for the presence of a Department of Transportation and Public Facilities certified welding inspector on one project and early structural failure on the other who knows what the future implications might have been.

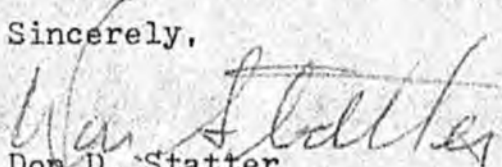
Another major problem with this whole business of welding and weld quality is the general lack of understanding of the process by the average man on the street. To him, the welder is a magical type who, with his electric wand, joins solid steel together to the dismay of all concerned! The consumer is not normally able to identify a good weld from a bad weld but pay the same price for both. If a welded trailer hitch fails and kills someone in the car behind whose fault is it, or if the marquee falls on your head who do you sue, the designer, the store owner, the contractor who built the building or the welder? Obviously, it makes little difference to the injured party or the survivors of the deceased. They only know that if the welds had held it would not have happened. The point I am trying to

make is that some vehicle is needed for setting the standards of weld quality in the state. In my opinion the Board of Welding Examiners fullfills this requirement.

In summary, I strongly support the retention of the Board and recommend that the committee endorse HB 595. The system and regulations are workable, cost efficient, non bureaucratic and essential to the public welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Don D. Statter
C.W.I.

cc: Vice Chairman, Bernard Bylsma
Richard Randolph
Terry Gardiner
Brian Rogers

Staff Analysis of testimony and documents presented.

Overview: The fundamental question of regulation and licensing is whether the licensing and/or regulation process is necessary to protect the public from serious and likely harm. In the case of an already existing Board or Commission the question on a viable alternative to the Board or present licensing practice should be considered.

Public Need: The Board of Welding Examiners received an audit by the Division of Legislative Audit on June 8, 1979, and a follow-up audit on November 24, 1980. Both audits reached the same conclusion: "In our opinion, there is not a sufficient public need for continuing either the Board or State licensing of welding personnel."

Public testimony has been critical of the performance of the Board and questions the need of the licensing of welding personnel by the State of Alaska. As the legislative audit (June 8, 1979, p9) points out, "that only one other state to date requires licensing of WI's." Further, there have been questions raised about conflicts of interest by certain of the Board members, and that the sole reason for the continuance of the Board is for their personal financial gain.

Analysis of Arguments: Perhaps it would be easiest to keep this report short to refer to Mr. Lockman's letter of January 25, 1982 (exhibit #1) and address each of his question and concerns.

First is "some vital areas which control the public's safety as it applies to welding." Since the Board has adopted the AWS QC1-78 (Exhibit #2) as the basis of testing and regulation perhaps it should be noted what these Standards state. "1.2 This Standard is intended to supplement any requirements of an employer, code, standard or specification and shall not be construed as a preemption of the employer's responsibility for the work or for the performance of such work. It would appear to be in the Public Interest for the liability

and responsibility of welding problems accrue to the responsible employer and not to the State.

Next, the questions that Mr. Lockman asks, "If the Licensed Welding Inspector is abolished,". Perhaps it would be more accurate to say, if the Board of Welding Examiners is abolished.

"1. Who will certify the welders for Alaska work?" Who certifies the welders for Alaska work now? The Board requires a \$50 examination fee for the welder inspector applicant. This fee is paid directly to the American Welding Society who administers, grades and certifies the test. In addition, the applicant must take an all position welding qualification test in at least one welding process. This is one of the areas that the conflict of interest has been raised. These tests are given by licensed Welding Inspectors or Certified Test Labs. The Board itself does not witness the test and has no knowledge if the individual whose application they review has, in fact, ever taken a test or is the same individual whose application they are certifying as a licensed Welding Inspector.

"3. How do we safeguard against false welder certification papers?" The real question is, How is that safeguard being provided now? The AWS QCI program, as administered, seems to be providing the sole protection that is being afforded. There is no physical control by the Board over the physical test being administered by the licensed Welding Inspectors. Elimination of the Board and adoption of the AWS QCI standards would not change what is being done at the present time, except that it would be less expensive for the employers and the Public.

"4. Can a welder come into Alaska without proving his ability and take a job welding?" Under the current Board regulations there is no requirement for an individual to have ever been in Alaska to be certified as a Welder or a Welding Inspector. The only figures available are found in the Legislative Audit of June 8, 1979 (p21) and show that 45% of the licensed Welding Inspectors are out-of-state residents. From the regulations of the Board, the requirement is that

an individual be AWS QCI certified and have paid the necessary fees to a licensed Alaska Welding Inspector. Exhibit #3, Sunday Times of 2/28/82 would seem to indicate that it would be easier for residents of Denver to become certified as welders and welding inspectors than it would be for Alaska residents who do not live in Anchorage.

This practice raises a policy question of whether or not the license is or could be used as a means to restrict entry of qualified individuals into the market. If there would be another large scale project, like the gas line, would it be desirable to restrict the licensing of Alaska Welding Inspectors to some facilities, such as the one in Denver? If so, which areas and who should be chosen? The Alyeska letter of April 12, 1977 (Exhibit #4) raises this and some other questions.

Further considerations. It would be easy to go point by point through all of the materials that have been presented but that would miss the main aspect. The fundamental questions raised by the Legislative Audit have not been addressed. The Public Need has not been demonstrated. If the Legislative Audits are to be given credence, then attention should be directed to their recommendation that "Welder qualification certificates can be required by statute and, if desired, the AWS certification program for WI's could be adopted by reference." In fact, except for the requirement of a test by a licensed Alaska Welding Inspector, this is the procedure that is being followed today.

Under any set of facts, the procedure adopted should not be structured in a manner that it be construed as a preemption of the employer's responsibility for the work or for the performance of such work.

Final Note. There seems to be some question over the validity on some of the testimony and "public input". The advertisement of 2/21/82 (Exhibit #5) purported to be by, or sanctioned by the American Welding Society was repudiated by the American Welding Society and should not be construed as indicative of their position (Exhibit #6). Likewise the letter of January 29, 1982 (Exhibit #7) has been viewed by the American Welding Society as a breach of their position on legislative matters

(Exhibit #9) and a possible breach their ethical code (Exhibit #8). The unsolicited testimony, input from the public and the Legislative Audits would appear to indicate that there is a rational to adopt the codes and the standards by reference.

January 29, 1982

Testing Institute of Alaska, Inc.
2114 Railroad Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Attention: Donald M. Lockman, Chairman
State Board of Welding Examiners

Subject: State Board of Welding Examiners and State Licensing of
Welding Inspectors Future Existence

Dear Sir:

I recently learned of the possibility of terminating the State Board of Welding Examiners and thereafter doing away with the licensing of welding inspectors in the state of Alaska.

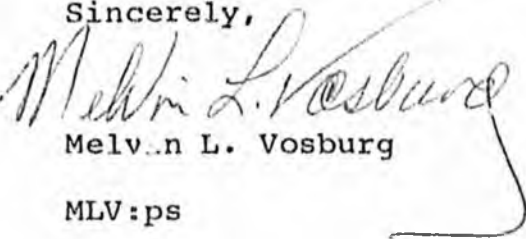
High integrity and the proper qualifications of a welding inspector are essential for maintaining the guidelines of codes and specifications on construction projects.

During the past ten years I have been involved in numerous major construction projects in Alaska and in the continental United States. During this time I have witnessed the lack of enthusiasm, neglect, and carelessness of the inexperienced inspector. Also, I have seen and experienced the pride of knowledge and confidence surrounding a highly qualified inspector, and the pride of a job well done.

I am an AWS certified inspector now and plan to have my Alaska license within the next few months. In order to accomplish this goal I have put forth considerable time, effort and expense as have all others who reach this goal.

I believe the continuation of the State Board of Welding Inspectors is essential in order to maintain the proper qualifications and professionalism needed in the quality control field to insure the high standards you now have in the state of Alaska.

Sincerely,


Melvin L. Vosburg

MLV:ps

January 27, 1982

Testing Institute of Alaska, Inc.
2114 Railroad Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Attention: Donald M. Lockman, Chairman
State Board of Welding Examiners

Subject: State Board of Welding Examiners and State Licensing of
Welding Inspectors Future Existence

Dear Sir:

Over the past sixteen years I have been involved in numerous major construction projects throughout Mexico, Alaska, and the continental United States. I have observed activities of construction people on almost every project which has bordered on criminal neglect. Many times their lack of knowledge of their profession, due to inadequate training is to blame, often they are caught up in the Construction Company's "let's get this job done" euphoria, and most tragic of all, many sell their integrity for a few quick dollars.

The average inspector has no idea how many pipeline and pipeline related deaths occur each year, and the millions of dollars wasted yearly due to lackadaisical inspection. A pipeline explosion in Baytown, Texas two years ago revealed a weld with no bead, latticed with defects, which had had in process and final visual inspection by a qualified welding inspector, radiography performed by a qualified Non-destructive Technician, and accepted by both. Three people died in this explosion.

To become certified by the State of Alaska one must take considerable time, effort, and expense to meet the qualifications. The Alaskan State Welding Board, and the enforcement of its regulations, guarantees to a much greater degree, that its members will conduct themselves with the professionalism and integrity that will ensure that the above-mentioned tragedies happen less and less.

My hope is that each and every state adopts such a visionary program as the State of Alaska.

Very truly yours,

William C. Biddy

William C. Biddy

WCB:ps

Subject: - "State Board of Welding Examiners
and State Licensing of Welding Inspectors
future existence."

118 Cedar Street
Bakersfield, California
93304

Dec. 8, 1981.

Mr Don Lockman
2132 - Railroad Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska, 99501.

Dear Don,

It disturbs me to understand that Alaska
is trying with the idea of the elimination of
your "State Board of Welding Examiners and the
State Licensing of Welding Inspectors."

Quality in welding and its design is some-
thing I feel very strongly about. In my set me
my ways regarding welds done properly. On the
other hand you will see welds done to just get by
visually and internally be "slap". This upset me.

Usually it's because someone does not care enough
to be there and over see the job, and you end up
with a potential calamity after it is put to use,
or a continual problem until all the deficiencies
are corrected in time. This causes dissatisfaction
time lost and money to all parties.

A good example of this was when I purchased

one of Americas top line luxury Automobile,
 and for over 6 months I had to do the
 inspection of this car. It had a variety of
 problems from trim falling off the outside & inside
 of the car, moulding around the rear glass on
 outside of the car, you could put your 4 fingers
 in, and a starter that was faulty and left
 us out in the country to walk home.

I know now why Detroit is having problems
 with slump in sales, and the increase in car sales
 made over seas. I asked a man at a car
 rental, "What car give you the best maintenance free
 and less break down?" He said, "Toyota"!! This
 made me mad, because here we in America
 once lead the world in the production & quality
 in car throughout all makes. Why the change?

Quality, Inspection, and not caring what comes
 off the assembly line. The crowd drivers will
 find it, and we sold ourselves down the road.

For the past 53 years I have been studying
 or working in the welding business, and since
 1941 doing welding inspection related to the
 production and the exploration of oil, on and
 offshore facilities

There is one thing that stands paramount
 in my mind. Welding gets sloppy when a
 company, or any official body, having
 construction or fabrication being performed,

3.
1.
fails to have welding inspectors, who are qualified be present at the pre-job meeting, go over the specifications and see they are in order for the material to be used, and that the shop or contractor has his house in order according to his shop manual, along with qualified welders and shop personnel. Then when the work begins, to have these inspectors on the job during the progressive of welding phases.

I hope this is the path that Alaska will go and keep your "State Board of Welding of Welding Examiners" and "State Licensing of Welding Inspectors". When I was Chief Inspector of the Prudhoe Bay Facility on the North Slope, I attended a few of your meetings. They were very good.

Having knowledgeable men in the welding field working with management in your constructing and fabricating facilities, following through the work cycle, I feel is essential to produce a good product or structure, or what ever it may be.

I had some pictures I took of a tank-truck used to haul hydrocarbons, and it was taken to a repair shop for a crack that had developed due to a support saddle reinforcement pad that had cut square rather than the 180° radius cut

like now is used in this type weldment. The welder knew the tank had been steamed and free of gas - (it was not purged w/ CO₂) and unknown to him a earlier repair was made inside with a patch and the patch was square cut and it had developed a crack at the corner of the patch. When the welder started to weld the outside of the reinforced area, he heard a hissing sound. He dropped the arc stinger leads and ran. Yelling a warning. The tank exploded, tearing the roof off and both doors to this steel reinforced building.

The tank fragments flew in many directions and what was left was a complete loss.

The conclusion being if a qualified inspector had checked the inside and seen the internal patch, and the patch was made with radius corners (this crack propagated filling it with the gases which was ignited by the arc caused this accident) he could have recommended the patch to be drilled, purged and then make the repair in a correct method.

No one was hurt, but to look at the truck and the building, its hard to believe.

Don I hope your State officials understand the complications, and the problems it will cause, if they don't continue to keep your "State Board of Welding Examiners & State Licensing of Welding Inspectors." I for one hope they don't eliminate you all - Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

Yours Truly, *Edm. Walters*, Weld Qualifier Inspector #AA0067

January 17, 1982

Honorable Terry Martin, Chairman,
House Labor & Commerce Committee:
Pouch V, Interdepartmental Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska. 99811

The last four years have been a time of advancement in integrity and safety for the welding industry and programs in Alaska. Standards have been selected and utilized by those Alaskans who have a deep and sincere concern for others as well as themselves.

Advancement, efficiency, and success belong to those who are willing to set high standards and live by them. The remaining segment of the welding society; those who are satisfied to exist as flotsam and jetsam or hanger-ons, may not desire to adhere to a set of demanding standards but, will nonetheless be benefited by the results of those who do.

My desire is to see the State Board of Welding Examiners and State Licensing of Welding Inspectors continued as it is today.

Thanking you kindly I remain,

Yours truly,

Carl R. Snyder

Carl Snyder
Welding Engineer,
Sr. Construction Eng.
Atlantic Richfield Corp.
Kuparuk Project

January 16, 1982

Honorable Terry Martin,
Pouch V, Juneau, AK. 99811
Interdepartmental Mail Stop 3100

House Bill #595

" An Act continuing the existence of the Board of Welding Examiners; and providing for an effective date."

The Alaska State Board of Welding Examiners, since its inception during the " Pipeline Days", has been performing an exceptional job of protecting the environmental interests and promoting the safety of the people of our State.

To insure quality and integrity, all structural, pipe, and pressure vessel welding must conform to the specifications of nationally accepted welding codes; all welders must qualify to the specifications of tested welding procedures; and State Licensed Welding Inspectors must inspect this work for conformance to job specifications and appropriate welding codes.

A prodigious amount of construction - dams, docks, refineries, pipelines and facilities, buildings, boilers, etc. - is either already in progress or in the planning and engineering stages.

Alaska is a leader in the United States in demanding quality and integrity in a field directly affecting public and environmental safety. Other states are following our example. I ask that you vote in favor of House Bill #595.

Sincerely,

James R. Jonas

James R. Jonas
3430 Hiland Drive
Anchorage, AK, 99504

January 18, 1982

Honorable Terry Martin
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Interdepartmental Mail Stop 3100
Pouch V, Juneau, Ak 99811

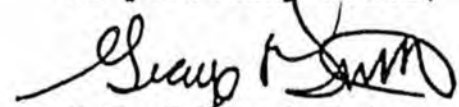
I have been involved in the welding industry since 1961. During this time I have been employed as; a welder, welding inspector, quality control inspector and a quality assurance engineer.

The board, currently in operation, consists of competent individuals, familiar with the industries needs and requirements.

Alaska is a leader in the United States in demanding quality and integrity. I am proud to be an Alaskan and feel it is a necessity we retain the Board of Welding Examiners.

I ask that you vote in favor of House Bill No. 595

Respectfully Yours,



G.F. "Steeet" Smith
Quality Assurance Eng.
SRA 1572I
Anchorage, AK 99507

ARCO Oil and Gas Company
General Engineering
Kuparuk Project
Post Office Box 6105
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
Telephone 907 659 2821



January 3, 1982

House Labor & Commerce Committee:
Pouch V, Interdepartmental Mail stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska. 99811

Subject: House Bill # 595 "An Act continuing the existence
of the Board of Welding Examiners; and providing
for an effective date."

Attention: Honorable Terry Martin, Chairman,

Forfeited
If House Bill #595 is not passed, during this session, the
Board of Welding Examiners will cease to exist in June 1982.
If this board is allowed to expire, the entire construction
industry will suffer a severe set-back.

Since the new regulations (12 AAC 72) became effective in
August, 1978, weld quality has improved immeasurably. This
regulation met with state-wide industry acceptance prim-
arily because of the project quality guaranteed by the
better qualified technician performing the work.

The additional requirement for welding inspectors to be-
come licensed by the state so enhanced the overall quality
of major construction projects that many companies (includ-
ing the major oil companies) who had established quality
control groups made acquiring this license mandatory for
employment or promotion.

These regulations have become a nation-wide standard with
Alaska as the leading state in demanding quality in con-
struction and integrity in inspectors. With other states
following our lead we should be fine-tuning our regulations
to become even better, not eliminating what has taken so
long to formulate and have industry recognize and accept.

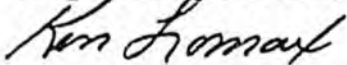
No one needs to remind Alaskans of the unnecessary cost
incurred in building the Trans Alaska Pipeline. One of
the major causes of the great expense was excessive weld
repairs caused by unqualified welders and inspectors. In many
cases these inspectors had never been involved in or around
construction prior to this project, and knew absolutely
nothing of welding or inspection.

On May 26, 1981, Representatives Brown and Anderson submitted House Bill No. 595 in the Legislature of the State of Alaska, Twelfth Legislature - First Session. This bill was tabled in the House.

If this bill is not enacted by the legislature during the present session, the Alaska Board of Welding Examiners will no longer exist. What people don't realize is; when the board ceases to exist, so does regulation requiring welders to be certified and weld inspectors to be licensed. As a manager, directly involved with welding and inspection, on major oil company construction projects, I sincerely feel the continuation of this board and regulation is essential for quality welding in Alaska.

Your support in re-establishing the professional and vocational regulations, as defined in 12 AAC 72, and continuing the existence of the Board of Welding Examiners as defined in State Statute AS 08.99 and House Bill 595, is sincerely appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,



Kenneth C. Lomax
Senior Quality Assurance Coordinator

KCL/bee

cc: Donald M. Lockman, Chairman
State Board of Welding Examiners

MSG 82-00005731 PRTY 1 02/03/82 17:35:54 ORIG: LA00 IN= 0011
FROM: JEAN, ANCH INFO TO: POM, JUNEAU INFO
TARGET: LJH2 SUBJ: POM

TO: REPRESENTATIVES BYLSMA, GARDINER, MARTIN, RANDOLPH
AND ROGERS

FROM: PHILLIP HUGHES
7800 DEBARR, SP 128
ANCHORAGE 99504 (H) 337-7218

Mary - schedule the Bill next week please

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE LAST HEARING OF THE 595 THIS DEFINITELY AFFECTS MY WORK AND FUTURE AS A WELDING INSPECTOR. IT ALSO AFFECTS THE PUBLIC WITH THE SAFETY OF STRUCTURES BEING BUILT. I ALSO FEEL THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS MAY BE INTERESTED IN THIS AND IF NOTIFIED YOU MAY HAVE MORE INPUT INTO THIS NEXT HEARING.

MSG 22-00005709 PRTY 1 02/03/62 16:48:11
FROM: JEAN, ANCH.
TARGET: LHMZ SUBJ: FOX

DRIG: LA00
TO: JUNEAU INFO

IN= 0009 OUT= 0077

PAGE 0004

REPRESENTATIVE BY: SNA, GARDNER, MARTIN, RANDOLPH AND ROGERS

FROM: MRS. RICHARD HOWE (FOR RICHARD HOWE) *Dist 13*
5901 EAST 6TH, ST 151
ANCHORAGE 99504 (M) 332-2225

THE ABOVE MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF ALASKA, AS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN
WELDING SOCIETY AND AN INSTRUCTOR IN WELDING, CERTIFIED BY THE
AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY. THE NEED FOR HIGHER QUALITY WELDING TO PROMOTE
SAFETY IS BEYOND QUESTION. THE SAFETY OF THE WORK PLACE
IS ENHANCED BY THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL.

Union Chemicals Division

Union Oil Company of California
P.O. Box 575, Kenai, Alaska 99611



January 27, 1982

Representative Terry Martin
Chairman Labor & Commerce Committee
Pouch V, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Martin:

I would like to request your support of Pending House Bill 595 for an Act Entitled: "An Act Continuing The Existence of the Board of Welding Examiners; and Providing for an Effective Date."

The existing welding regulations (12 AAC 72) were adopted in 1978 and have proven to be a reasonably comprehensive program that industry can live with. Union Chemicals Division has spent considerable time and money training and licensing welding inspectors and qualifying welders to comply with these regulations.

My company has found that the existing regulations are quite workable and have been very effective in increasing the competency and general level of knowledge of both welders and quality control people in the field.

I would not want to see this effort wasted and have the State start over with some different program. It would be far better and more economical to keep the existing program and attempt to correct the minor deficiencies that presently exist.

I think you will find that some "special interest" groups are always opposed to any given regulatory program and I believe this is the case with the small, very vocal group submitting negative comments regarding the Board of Welding Examiners. Virtually all of the negative comments that I have received have come from individuals or companies that were unable to comply with the regulations because of lack of competency. I believe that industry as a whole supports the existing regulations.

It is my understanding that some "special interest" groups would like to see the Board of Welding Examiners terminated and replaced by a "Welding Bureau" patterned after the Canadian Welding Bureau as evidenced by Senate Bill 121 submitted by senator Bill Sumner in 1979. I also understand there is ongoing

Representative Terry Martin
Chairman Labor & Commerce Committee

-2-

January 27, 1982

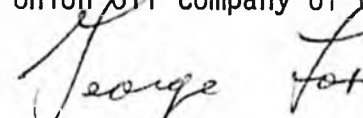
discussion in Juneau at this time along these lines.

My company does not support a "Welding Bureau" concept and feels it would, in all likelihood, be a burdensome, expensive and unworkable concept.

We request your support of House Bill 595.

Thank you,

Union Chemicals Division
Union Oil Company of California



G. A. Fox
Engineering Supt.

GAF:ksh

3971 EASTWOOD LOOP
ANCHORAGE, AK 99504
FEBRUARY 5, 1982

HOUSE, LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN: TERRY MARTIN
POUCH V, JUNEAU, AK 99811
(INTER DEPARTMENTAL MAIL STOP 3100)

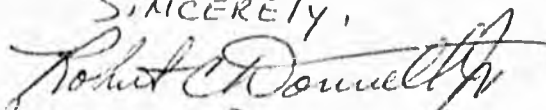
It is my ~~understanding~~ understanding that there is a bill presently before the HOUSE (HB595) that is to reestablish the state board of welding examiners and the regulations governing weldors qualifications.

It is my desire as a weldor that HB595 be passed. My reasons for this are, as a weldor, I realize the value in proper certification and qualification of weldors and certainly the value of them to be properly licensed.

The welding quality in the state of Alaska has improved considerably since these laws went into effect in 1978. If this board is allowed to expire, welding quality within the state will suffer severely. I have personal knowledge of people that weld in small welding and fabrication shops that are not certified but yet they weld items that affect us in every day life such as trailer hitches, cranes, walkways, support beams, hand rails, guard rails & etc.

Your support of HB595 will be sincerely and deeply appreciated.

C.C.: BERNARD BLYSMA
RICHARD RANDOLPH
BRIAN RODGERS
TERRY GARDINER

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. DONNELL JR.
WELDING TECHNICIAN
ARCO ALASKA INC.

February 8, 1982

Legislative House Labor
and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

ATTN: Chairman Terry Martin

Dear Mr. Martin:

This letter is to let you know that I totally support the continuation of the State Board of Welding Examiners.

I feel it is of great importance to the people of our state that we continue to strive toward safety and excellence in the welding field. The continuation of the State's policy of licensing welding inspectors is the only way to carry on our record of excellence and safety. Without the state licensing of welding inspectors we will no longer be assured of the unbiased and high quality of welding inspection we now have within our State.

Yours truly,

Dave K. Weiman



Parsons Constructors Inc.
100 W. Walnut Street

Mailing address
P.O. Box 7036
Pasadena, California 91109

February 9, 1982

Chairman Terry Martin
Legislative House Labor and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Martin:

It has come to our attention that the Alaska House Labor Committee is currently deciding on a House Bill that would eliminate the State of Alaska Board of Welding Examiners and accordingly the State licensing of welding inspectors. We urge the Committee to decide in favor of continuing the services of the State Board of Welding Examiners.

For years, industry has recognized the requirement for testing and certifying welding procedures and welders. But, not until the past few years has the weakest link in the welded product chain been fortified by the testing and licensing or certifying of welding inspectors. It seems illogical to verify the adequacy of a welding procedure, test the skill of a welder, yet allow an individual of unproven competency to make the ultimate decision as to acceptability of a weld. It is akin to passing traffic laws for safe driving, licensing drivers and then employing law enforcement officers of unknown training and experience.

On a national level, industry has adopted a self-proposed examination and certification program for structural steel welding inspectors. This act in itself should be sufficient to convince the Committee of industry's recognition of this "weak link". Their self-imposed requirement of welding inspector certification offers indirect support for the continuance of the State of Alaska Board of Welding Examiners.

Sincerely,

PARSONS CONSTRUCTORS INC.

K. H. Fredianelli
Manager of Quality Control

KHF:mh

cc: Vice Chairman, Bernard Bylsma
Richard Randolph
Terry Gardiner
Brian Rogers

Charles N. Paulus
401 South Kentucky #37
East Wenatchee, Washington 98801

February 8, 1982

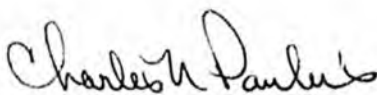
Legislative House Labor & Commerce
Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am convinced that a high level of quality is required in a number of specialized fields. Specifically welding inspection as well as welders themselves.

It is my opinion that people would prefer assurance that functions as those stated above are being performed by individuals with the ability and experience currently required by the State of Alaska.

Very truly yours,


Charles N. Paulus
Welding Inspector AA0179

MSG 82-00007037 PRTY 1 02/09/82 15:16:52 ORIG: LA00 IN= 0012 OUT= 0121
FROM: JEAN, ANCH INFO TO: POM, JUNEAU INFO
TARGET: LJH2 SUBJ: POM PAGE 0013

TO: REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN

FROM: HAZEL ELMAN
SR 2 BX 8170, EKLUTNA LAKE RD
CHUGIAK 99567 (H) 688-3234

RE: HB 595

I AM IN FAVOR OF RE-ESTABLISHING THE STATE BOARD OF WELDING
EXAMINERS.

MSG 82-00007965 PRTY 1 02/12/82 15:15:38 ORIG: LA00 IN= 0013 OUT= 0054
FROM: JEAN, ANCH INFO TO: POM, JUNEAU INFO
TARGET: LJH2 SUBJ: POM PAGE 0003

TO: REPRESENTATIVES MARTIN, BYLSMA, GARDINER, RANDOLPH AND ROGERS
FROM: ROBERT T. WISE
ALASKA ST WELDING INSPECTOR, LC #0061
5301 TRENA ST
ANCHORAGE 99507 (H) 349-2125

I STRONGLY SOLICIT YOUR SUPPORT IN PASSING HB-595 REESTABLISHING
THE STATE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN
PROTECT THE PUBLIC AGAINST THE DISASTERS CAUSED BY INADEQUATE
WELDING AND INSPECTION IS TO BE SURE THAT WELDERS AND INSPECTORS
ARE CERTIFIED BY MERIT AND NOT BY POLITICS.

January 18, 1982

Labor & Commerce and Finance Committee
Legislature of the State of Alaska
Twelfth Legislature - Second Session

The State of Alaska Board of Welding Examiners will cease to exist in June, 1982, in accordance with current Sunset requirements.

The members of the board would like to re-cap some of the goals and accomplishments of the past few years and give an opinion of what will happen if the board ceases to exist.

In 1976, members of the board observed that regulations were being largely ignored by the industry. A review of the regulations governing welders and weld inspection revealed them to be unworkable. In 1976/77, a new set of regulations (12AAC72) were formalized. For the most part, this new regulation met with statewide industry acceptance. There was little opposition noted during the public hearings, held in 1977 and 1978.

Several hundred manhours were spent writing these regulations. This time was, of course, spent at the individual board member's own expense. Each board member considered the time well worth the effort, once the statutes and regulations became effective August 21, 1978.

These regulations became a nationwide standard, with at least two other states adopting similar regulations. Most large construction companies, as they became aware of the new regulations, started having their welders certified in accordance with approved guidelines. Until this time, most workers welders considered themselves "certified" which was a term without meaning. Once the welders learned they would have to certify, or re-certify, to prove their proficiency, they obtained additional training as required to meet the various welding codes used in Alaska.

The additional requirement of licensed welding inspectors so enhanced the overall quality of major construction projects that many companies (including the major oil companies) who had established quality control groups made the acquisition of this license mandatory for employment or promotion. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company felt this program was important enough to set up an extensive (and expensive) welding inspector training program for their inspectors. Industry in the "lower 48" has started to follow the example set in Alaska for certifying welders via welding inspectors. This standard has considerably increased the level of expertise in weld inspection.

As you know, one of the major reasons for expensive repair work on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was due to inadequate and/or incompetent weld inspection. This one item caused millions of dollars of additional expense to the consumer.

The high weld reject rate and lack of knowledgeable, qualified welding inspectors on this project was one of the main reasons the State of Alaska elected to regulate welders and inspectors in the first place. With the forthcoming construction of the natural gas pipeline, the same problems will arise if there is no regulation to govern them. Welders will be qualified incorrectly (or not at all), and welding inspection will be done by the "brother-in-law" system or by individuals the contractors believe will cause the least amount of weld repairs. This possible situation is not an exaggeration; these things did occur during the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and will occur on the gas line if not closely governed.

As with any regulation or law, there are "special interest" groups that may either benefit or be adversely affected by the law. This analogy certainly applies here. There is little doubt that the three or four testing inspection laboratories in Alaska derive a certain amount of business because of the regulations. However, if these labs were not available locally, the work would simply be provided by "lower 48" companies.

* This board has found that most individuals who are opposed to the regulations either can't pass the professional examination (or certification) or have a contrary special interest. One special interest group is working to set up a separate State organization for personal benefit called a Welding Bureau. This was suggested in Senate Bill No. 121, submitted by Senator Bill Sumner in 1979.

What is wrong with this?

Industry's opposition to the present regulation has been extremely light. In fact, most negative feedback from the industry involves suggested revisions to the regulations, rather than opposition to the regulation itself. We agree that it does need revision. The proposed changes will make it easier for industry to comply with the regulations.

What about Budget's Small Board?

During the public Sunset hearings, many individuals from within the industry testified in favor of continuing the board and its regulations. Of all the testimonies submitted, only two were negative. Neither individual was licensed as an inspector, and both worked for the State in educational areas. It is hard to understand why a professional board was allowed to be Sunsetting when almost all the public input was positive. The board believed then, and still does, that it exists as a board to protect the public. We satisfied both the public and industry but, apparently did not satisfy the members of the Sunset committees.

A significant result of present regulation that the legislative audit did not and could not cover is the fact that the overall welding quality in the State has taken a significant step forward since the enactment of the welding inspector regulation. Better welding quality translates directly into economic and safety benefits for the public.

There are many welding projects throughout the State that have been brought to a safe standard by the conscientious inspection of licensed welding inspectors. These cases do not reach the public's awareness because they are not given the publicity that a catastrophic failure would create. The public benefits are all around us in our everyday use of welded products and facilities.

Our point is this: Industry has accepted this regulation as an important tool for controlling quality. To let the board, and subsequently the regulation, cease to exist at a time when industry is interested in (and receptive to) a governing regulation, is certainly not in the public's best interest.

Your consideration of re-establishing the professional and vocational regulations, as defined in 12AAC72, and continuing the existence of the Board of Welding Examiners, as defined in State Statute AS 08.99 and House Bill No. 595, is sincerely solicited.

This is a unanimous opinion from the board.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donald M. Lockman

Chairman

State Board of Welding Examiners



PENINSULA INSTITUTE OF WELDING TECHNOLOGY

WELDING TRAINING & WELDER CERTIFICATION
AWS CERTIFIED
ALASKA STATE WELDING INSPECTOR LIC. NO. AA0100

P.O. BOX 907
KENAI, ALASKA 99611
(907) 776-5292

Page 1 of 2

JANUARY 25, 1982

CHAIRMAN TERRY MARTIN
LEGISLATIVE HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
TWELTH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that this important piece of Legislative Business has been put on the back burner of importance by the last Legislature. As was brought to everyone's attention by the construction of the Oil Pipeline, a serious lacking of qualified Alaskan Welding Inspectors was apparent. With the possibility of pending construction of the gas pipeline, and other major construction projects, the deletion of this legislation would be of no benefit to the State of Alaska, and in fact a tremendous disservice to Alaska and Alaskans.

It is our opinion that the State Board of Welding Examiners and State licensing of welding inspectors has been effective and has done a valuable service to the citizens of the State of Alaska by increasing the quality of welders and quality of construction. We also support the necessity of the Board of Welding Examiners as they are the only means of policing the regulations.

Licensing Welding Inspectors in our opinion is the only feasible way to protect the public without increasing the bureaucracy.

As you know, if HB 595 is not acted upon before June 1982 the Board and licensing will be terminated and the State will have no guidelines for welding quality in Alaska and this would be another serious disservice to the Alaskan public.



PENINSULA INSTITUTE OF WELDING TECHNOLOGY

Page 2 of 2

Enclosed are several documents containing information pertaining to this issue:

1. An overview of the sunset process.
2. A copy of HB #595 currently in the Labor and Commerce Committee.
3. A probable successful route for HB #595.

With your support, this legislation can be enacted between the beginning of the new legislative term in January and the June of 1982 deadline, if it is moved properly through the various committees to the floor.

At your February meeting we implore you to act in favor of retaining the Board and licensing as it presently exists.

Sincerely,

HARRY F. BARNES

RANDOLPH L. BARNES

CC A.P. ADAMS (REP.)
J.G. FULLER (REP.)
H. MALONE (REP.)
P.M. O'CONNELL (REP.)
D. BENNETT (SEN.)
M.E. DANKWORTH (SEN.)
D.E. GILMAN (SEN.)
T. KELLY (SEN.)
B. MULCAHY (SEN.)
J. HAMMOND (GOV.)

OVERVIEW : SUNSET REVIEW PROCESS

State law requires that licensing boards justify their existence approximately every five years.

The sunset review process involves the following basic steps.

- 1- A termination date is set by statute for an existing board.
- 2- A performance audit of the board is conducted by the Division of Legislative Audit during the calendar year prior to the termination date.
- 3- During the session immediately preceding the termination date the legislature sets up a committee* to hold hearings and make recommendations to the legislature on the board under review. At these hearings the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the interested public give testimony.
- 4- Based on the hearing testimony, the findings of the performance audit and any other factors that the legislature wishes to consider, a decision is made to :
 - A) eliminate the licensing process,
 - B) modify the licensing process, or
 - C) continue the licensing process unchanged.

The fundamental questions that underlie the sunset review process are :

- 1- Is the licensing process necessary to protect the public from serious and likely harm? What alternatives to the present licensing process exist?
- 2- Is the board necessary to the licensing process? Is board licensing the most effective way to protect the public? Is board licensing the most economical way of protecting the public? Is board licensing the most desirable way to protect the public?

Other less fundamental, but often equally important, questions are raised during the sunset review process, usually by the performance audit. These questions usually include :

- 1- How efficiently has the board been operating?
- 2- How responsive has the board been to the public?
- 3- Has the board been unnecessarily restricting entry into the profession?
- 4- How conscientious has the board been in meeting its statutory and other obligations?

* committee of reference

- 1- HB 595 was introduced on 5/26/81 and referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.
- 2- If the House Labor and Commerce Committee approves HB595 as is, it will be referred to the House Finance Committee.
- 3- If the House Finance Committee approves it as is, it will be sent to the House rules Committee for calendaring for a vote on the floor of the House.
- 4- If the full House approves the bill, it will be sent to the Senate for its consideration.
- 5- It will be referred to the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee for consideration.
- 6- If Senate Labor and Commerce Committee approves it, it will be sent to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.
- 7- If the Senate Finance Committee approves it, it will be sent to the Senate Rules Committee for calendaring for a floor vote in the Senate.
- 8- If the Senate approves it as it was sent over from the House, it will be sent to the Governor for signature or veto. If the bill has been changed in the Senate from the form and content it was approved originally in the House, it would then be sent back to House for its concurrence in any changes prior to going to the Governor for his consideration.

TO: REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN, CHAIRMAN HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMM.

FROM: DOUGLAS L. LOREN, P.E.
3230 WESTMAR CIRCLE
ANCHORAGE 99504

(H) 274-0994

I SUPPORT HB 595. THE STATE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE ABOLISHED BY SUNSET LEGISLATION. PUBLIC SAFETY DICTATES THAT ADEQUATE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS BE REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION OF WELDERS AND FOR WELDMENT INSPECTORS.

*List of
Board of Welding Examiners*

February 8, 1982

Legislative House Labor
and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

ATTN: Chairman Terry Martin

Dear Mr. Martin:

This letter is to let you know that I totally support the continuation of the State Board of Welding Examiners.

I feel it is of great importance to the people of our state that we continue to strive toward safety and excellence in the welding field. The continuation of the State's policy of licensing welding inspectors is the only way to carry on our record of excellence and safety. Without the state licensing of welding inspectors we will no longer be assured of the unbiased and high quality of welding inspection we now have within our State.

Yours truly,

Robert S. Cederberg

February 8, 1982

Legislative House Labor
and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Skamarocius". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "John Skamarocius".

February 8, 1982

Legislative House Labor
and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

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Yours truly,

Dennis Skamarocius

February 8, 1982

Legislative House Labor
and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

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Yours truly,

Lyn C. DeCamillo

February 8, 1982

Legislative House Labor
and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

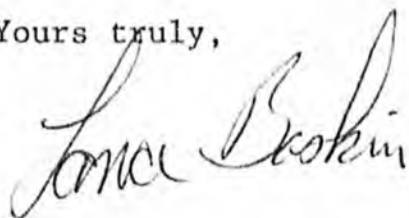
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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lance Eskin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Lance Eskin".

February 8, 1982

Legislative House Labor
and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

ATTN: Chairman Terry Martin

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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Armi M. Nelson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Armi M. Nelson".

1823 Sunrise Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
February 11, 1982

Representative Terry Martin, Chairman
Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

HB 595

Comment on State Board of Welding Examiners

I was the first resident licensed Welding Engineer in Alaska. I consulted and wrote welding procedure when Haines to Fairbanks pipeline was laid, wrote successful procedures and tested welders for Elmendorf hospital welding after 2 months of failure by contractors to meet national strength tests.

I organized the Alaska Section of the American Welding Society and a sub-section in Kenai. Greatly concerned about the weld quality we were getting and the hanky-panky used by transient and local contractors, I spent thousands of dollars conferring with American Welding Society officials, the Canadian Welding Board (a business sponsored program to assure qualified weldors, foremen, procedures and inspection), Australian Welding Society, and met with Hawaiiin officials. I organized the drive for the State Welding Board and was first chairman, also attended all meetings until the pipeline was started. I organized the 2-year-degree Materials Science Department at Anchorage Community College covering metals, plastics, joining methods, destructive and non-destructive metals testing. I set up the welding department with the best radiographic system north of Sacramento and tested some 1,000 welders during the years I ran the only qualified test lab in Alaska.

The system that has now evolved does not at all equal that of Canada, Australia or England in my judgment. Furthermore manual and semi-automatic welding has been substantially eliminated on high technology production. New aircraft replace metal by plastics. Welding is largely automated in manufacturing in Japan and other advanced technology areas. In Boston I saw machines used by Westinghouse, GE and Raytheon that automatically made 200 welds per second.

I saw robotic welding in Clinton, Massachusetts some

Representative Terry Martin, Chairman
Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee
February 11, 1982
Page 2

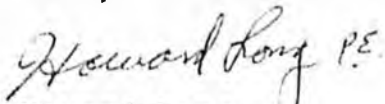
weeks ago that had only two middle age women in a giant clean room watching signal lights. Materials are stocked on the top floor, manufactured in enclosed machines on the second floor, and bundled or packaged on a lower floor. That company, with plants in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, Europe, and South America will be 100 per cent robotized world wide in seven years. Turbine engine welding is essentially eliminated or robotized in the U.S.

Some manual welding will continue but quality of most welding is determined before the arc is started. Inspection by humans has never guaranteed quality and doesn't now. There are grievous flaws in procedure, inspection, and quality. (For example on the new Arco building) under present law.

Quality control must be built in, not inspected in. I've seen inspectors "trained" from scratch and certified under present Alaska law in six weeks, and I am convinced by what I see and by what reports I get from some of the finest men out in the field that the system we ended up with hasn't assured welding quality.

Our original intent to improve quality by incentives to private enterprise as some other countries do has turned into larger government.

With deepest regret, after all the selfless efforts and thousands of unpaid hours put in by many on the program, I now feel that it is not really worth the cost and the delays it causes.


Howard Long

REPRESENTATIVE TERRY MARTIN 16 FEB 82
CHAIRMAN LEGISLATIVE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCIAL
COMMITTEE

DEAR MR. MARTIN,

AS A CERTIFIED WELDER AND SECTION CHIEF
FOR AIRCRAFT AND MISSILE WELDING AT
ELMENDORF AFB, DOING ALL CERTIFIED
WELD REPAIR ON ALL MILITARY AIRCRAFT
IN ALASKA I CAN ATTEST TO THE FACT
THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA HAS A
RESPONSIBILITY TO ITS PEOPLE TO
PROVIDE A STRINGENT GOVERNING BODY
TO REGULATE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES
TO CERTIFY WELDERS IN THIS STATE.
MORAL AND LIABLE PRINCIPLES ALONE SHOULD
MANDATE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE
STATE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR DILIGENT, RESPONSIVE
CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

IF I MAY BE OF HELP IN THIS MATTER
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME.

SINCERELY,

Rex J. Close
5601 COLLEGE DR.
ANCH, AK. 99504

Rex J. Close

HOME 333-8881
WORK 552-5425

DATE: January 25, 1982
TO: All State Licensed Welding Inspectors
FROM: Donald M. Lockman, Chairman *Donald M. Lockman*
State of Alaska Board of Welding Examiners
SUBJECT: State Board of Welding Examiners and State Licensing
of Welding Inspectors Future Existence.

On January 20, 1982 a committee meeting was held in Juneau by the House Labor and Commerce Committee headed by Chairman, Terry Martin and attended by Vice Chairman Bylsam and Committee members Randolph, Rogers and Gardiner. Mr. Ken Lomax and myself were present at the meeting and the outcome was as follows:

1. In talking with Representative Anderson, he illustrated that correspondence received in his office was negative which opposed continuing the board. However, he did not have but a few letters in receipt. He was projected a positive direction by Mr. Lomax and myself and decided to evaluate future letters before making a decision on HB #595.
2. Two persons in attendance were Mr. Louis Russo and Mr. Ery Long of Arctic Foundations who testified against the Board and painted a very detrimental picture of welding inspection not being needed by licensed individuals.
3. The Labor and Commerce Committee had correspondence which appeared to address a need for a Welding Bureau and possibly licensing of welders being controlled out of the State Department of Labor.
4. There were various letters opposing the Board from several companies associated with Mr. Russo and references of opposition to the Board from the Department of Labor.
5. There was a telephone campaign in Anchorage to companies to call Juneau to oppose the Board. A few called the Testing Institute to find out what they were supposed to be opposed to.

As you see, a few that holler the loudest can be heard the most. It appears at this point there will be no future need for welding inspectors in Alaska or if so, they will be from the brother-in-law system.

We did persuade the Committee to meet again in February so a more responsive opinion could be made. However, if the people who are in favor of the Board don't correspond with this Committee, the outcome will be the same.

If you believe in quality welding in Alaska, then you must tell this committee either in person or by letter. This is your last chance to keep a quality standard of welding for the protection of the public. If this committee decides to support the bill it will probably clear the other committees also, but if this Committee decides against the board, we will all probably function under a welding bureau.

Mail your letters to:

Original letter to: Chairman Terry Martin
Copies to: Vice Chairman, Bernard Bylsma
Richard Randolph
Terry Gardiner
Brian Rogers
Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811



January 29, 1982

AWS Member:

There is a House Bill (HB 595) in Juneau in the Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee to reestablish the State Board of Welding Examiners which is being abolished by the Sunset Legislation. If this bill is not passed, there will be no regulations in Alaska for the certification of welders or inspection of weldments. If the licensed Welding Inspector is abolished;

1. Who will certify the welders in Alaska for Alaska work?
2. A welder will be able to come into Alaska without proving his or her ability and take an Alaska job.
3. How would we safeguard against false welder certification papers?
4. Who will be the responsible persons to inspect welds?
5. Is it in the public's best interest to not test the knowledge of a Welding Inspector?

There is no question about the need for a welder to be certified, the question is always (1) Certified for what application? (2) Certified by who?

We have today a proven mechanism to safeguard the Alaskan public against bad welding. To abolish this mechanism or trade it for some other that may not work or damage the quality of future projects is certainly not in the public's best interest.

The American Welding Society's total existence is to create better welding for the public's safety.

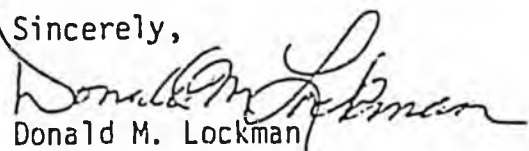
The Executive Board of the AWS met 1-29-82 and is soliciting your support in passage of HB 595. This support must be heard before 2-20-82 in Juneau before the next committee meeting.

You can call 278-3668, the State Information Center and at no cost, in 50 words or less have a message transmitted to the House Labor & Commerce Committee. Or, you can write to:

Representative Terry Martin, Chairman
Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Action on your part is required to keep Alaska safe, don't just let the other guy do it, he may not.

Sincerely,


Donald M. Lockman
Chairman.

February 11, 1982
P.O. Box 178
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

Representative Terry Martin, Chairman
Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

In reference to your consideration to abolish or reestablish the Board of Welding Examiners, I feel it is necessary to consider the possibility of negligence in areas of welding inspection by persons who have not given proper proof of their inspector qualifications. I feel the only authoritative body in this area is the Board of Welding Examiners.

By abolishing the Board of Welding Examiners the eventuality of loss in lives and property by inadequate welding inspection can not be overlooked.

I feel it is imperative to reestablish the Board to allow no leeway for incompetence or abuse.

Sincerely,

William R. Holt
William R. Holt

cc: Rep. Bernard Bylona
Rep. Richard Randolph
Rep. Brian Rogers
Rep. Terry Gardiner

HB 595

TONY MORALES
1785 FORTUNA Ave.
PACIFIC BEACH, CA.
92109

CHAIRMAN TERRY MARTIN

LEG. HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE COM.

12TH ALASKA STATE LEG.

Pooch V

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

DEAR CHAIRMAN,

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN RESPONSE TO YOUR MEETINGS CONCERNING THE STATE BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS. I DON'T VOICE MY OPINION TOO OFTEN, BUT THIS CAUSE, AND THE STATE OF ALASKA ARE SOMETHING I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT. I FEEL I SHOULD DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO CHANGE YOUR OPINION OF DISCONTINUING THE WELDING EXAMINERS BOARD. I HOPE THIS LETTER IS NOT TOO LATE.

BY TRADE I AM AN N.D.E. TECHNICIAN (A RELATED INSPECTION FIELD), Q.A., Q.C. INSPECTOR. I HAVE WORKED IN ALASKA ON THE NORTH SLOPE PROJECTS BOTH AS AN N.D.E. TECH. AND A LICENSED WELDING INSPECTOR. ALASKA IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE ABLE TO WORK. WHEN I'M NOT IN ALASKA, I WORK IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. WORKING ON THE W.P.P.S.S. NUCLEAR PROJECTS. AS YOU ARE AWARE, ALASKA PROBABLY DRAWS MOST OF ITS "EXTRA" WORK FORCE FROM WASHINGTON.

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO BE PART OF THE WELDING FIELD HERE IN WASHINGTON. IN MY EXPERIENCES AS AN INSPECTOR, I'VE FOUND IT TO

BE TRUE THAT THERE IS A COMPARITUELY FEWER NUMBER OF CAPABLE INSPECTORS THAN THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE INSPECTION FIELD. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ONLY BEST WORKING IN ALASKA. ESPECIALLY IN SUCH A DRASTIC WORKING-LIVING CHANGE AS THE NORTH SLOPE IS.

THE WELDING INSPECTION BUSINESS IS A RELATIVELY EASY FIELD TO GET INTO, ESPECIALLY IN A NON-UNION AREA. A PERSON CAN BE TRAINED AT WILL, AND MANIPULATED TOWARDS THE JOB. IF HE IS TRAINED WELL, THAT IS GOOD, BUT NOT ENOUGH. IN THE UNIONS (PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 598) THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IS GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME. THE JOURNEYMAN INSPECTORS COME FROM ALL AREAS AND ALL BACKGROUNDS. MANY JUST BARELY MAKING IT. MANY WITH PUMPED UP CREDENTIALS. MANY SHOW A LACK OF AMBITION AND NO INITIATIVE.

I BELIEVE THAT ALASKA IS TRUELY THE LAST FRONTIER. IT IS MEANT FOR THE YOUNG, AMBITIOUS, THE HARDY, AND THE SURVIVORS. IF WE ARE GOING TO DEVELOPE WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY, LET'S DO IT RIGHT! LETS NOT DO WHAT WEVE DONE TO THE NUCLEAR FIELD.

WE NEEDED THE ELEMENTARY FOUNDATION, THE STEPPING STONE TO PROFESSIONALISM. WE NEED A GROUP, THE COMMITTEE, TO AT LEAST HAVE A MECHANISM TO SCREEN AND WEED OUT THE UNDISIRABLES. TO TAKE ONLY PEOPLE THAT HAVE PROVED TO THE PROFESSION

THAT THEY HAVE THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE, AND THE ASSERTIVENESS TO PERFORM IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER. BY PASSING WHAT IS NOW REQUIRED BY THE BOARD IS A VERY GOOD TEST OF PROFESSIONALISM AND CHARACTER.

WE DONT NEED THE SUPERVISOR FATHER SENDING FOR HIS COLLEGE KID SON, TAKING HIS TESTS FOR HIM ON THE JOB, THEN SENDING HIM OUT IN THE ^{FIELD} AT THE EQUIVALENT RATE OF A THIRD YEAR APPRENTICE. OR, A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY/ OWNER SENDING HIS LOCAL OKLAHOMA BUDDIES UP TO ALASKA FOR PAYMENT FOR BUILDING SOME BARRIOS ON HIS OKLA. HORSE RANCH.

AS FOR MYSELF, I PLAN TO MOVE TO ANCHORAGE, AS SOON AS I FIND A SEMI-PERMANENT JOB.

SINCERELY,
Tony Morales

February 22, 1982

Mr. Terry Martin
Chairman, Legislative House
Labor and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Martin:

Persuant to the continuation of the State Board of Welding Examiners, I forward my approval and support of the Board.

I have been a State of Alaska Welding Inspector since the summer of 1978, and I do support now as I did ~~prior to testing~~ and obtaining my American Welding Society Nation Welding Inspectors Certificate and State of Alaska Welding Inspector's License, the present system for assuring that those that are presently licensed by the State of Alaska have passed a minimum requirement of five (5) years welding related experience and the A.W.S. C.W.I. examination. Although I do agree that there may be a need for some minor language changes to the present State Board of Welding Examiners Regulations, I feel they are quite adequate.

My present position is North Slope Fabrication Supervisor for Sohio Alaska Petroleum Company and my most recent prior position was the Quality Control Manager for Morrison-Knudsen on the Arco Alaska, Kapurak project. Both of these positions, as others I have held, have brought me to a front line position where welding quality is of prime concern.


My observations have proven that persons licensed under the present State of Alaska welding inspector's licensing system are far more experienced and qualified than others that may have acquired jobs as Welding Inspectors via osmosis or other appointed or brother-in-law systems.

Granted, true welding engineers (8 years schooling) have excellent qualifications. They are few and far between. While other engineers may possess excellent qualifications also, they have little or no welding knowledge. I have backed this statement many times while working in this field, as many engineers have come to myself and other Alaska licensed Welding Inspectors for assistance and direction in welding related matters.

Many of those persons opposing the present system may find the present requirements and testing to be too much for their welding related knowledge and would like to see the Board abolished and an appointment system enacted.

I thank you for your efforts in this matter.

Truly yours


Bruce D. Weisman
P.O. Box 4-1643
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

BW/bjk

Copies to: Vice Chairman, Bernard Bylsma
Richard Randolph
Terry Gardiner
Brian Rogers

Legislative House Labor and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

January 26, 1982

Representative Terry Martin
Chairman, Labor & Commerce Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

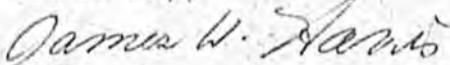
Dear Mr. Martin:

I was just notified that the sunset law on the Alaska Welding Board is due to run out, and that it is possible the board may be eliminated. This would be a mistake in my judgment.

In 1974 I became Inspection Supervisor for Brown & Root Construction Company working for British Petroleum Company, North Slope, Alaska. At the peak of activities I had 32 inspectors either on the slope or on R&R. Out of 32 I could only count on ten (10%) percent for acceptable knowledge and integrity; the other 90% were company "good old boys", I was not allowed to fire or hire as per company policy. After the implementation of licensing, about 20 of the "good old boys" were unable to qualify and were slowly removed from inspection.

The licensing of inspectors, by the board guidelines, demonstrates a certain level of proficiency and knowledge. The trend of licensed inspectors is not to buckle under to company pressure for production; thereby increasing the quality, and decreasing the chances of product failure.

Sincerely,



James W. Harris
P.O. Box 956
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Alaska State Legislature



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

P. O. BOX 9
KENAI, ALASKA 99611

REPRESENTATIVE HUGH MALONE

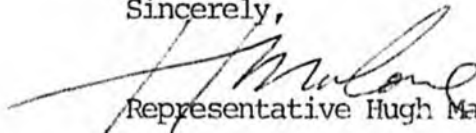
February 18, 1982

Representative Terry Martin, Chair
Labor & Commerce Committee
Behrends, Room 211

Dear Representative Martin,

I should like to know your schedule for HB 595, "An Act
continuing the existence of the Board of Welding Examiners;"
This bill is very important to many people on the Peninsula.

Sincerely,


Representative Hugh Malone

cc: Peninsula Institute of Welding Technology
Union Oil Company of California
Representative Ramona Barnes

*2/23/82 - called
Malone's office &
told them scheduled
for 3-2-82.*

February 8, 1982

Legislative House Labor
and Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

ATTN: Chairman Terry Martin

Dear Mr. Martin:

This letter is to let you know that I totally support the continuation of the State Board of Welding Examiners.

I feel it is of great importance to the people of our state that we continue to strive toward safety and excellence in the welding field. The continuation of the State's policy of licensing welding inspectors is the only way to carry on our record of excellence and safety. Without the state licensing of welding inspectors we will no longer be assured of the unbiased and high quality of welding inspection we now have within our State.

Yours truly,

Beit McDonald

2205 Boniface

SP. 37A

99504

TELEGRAM

ALASCOM, INC.

PHONE: 585-6442

JUNEAU, AK 99802

#

02189 NL ANCHORAGE AK 90 02-10 1532 AST

PMS REP TERRY MARTIN

JUNEAU

1124

REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB595. ALASKA IS A HEAVY INDUSTRIALIZED PETROLEUM STATE. COMMON SENSE DICTATES AND PUBLIC SAFETY DEMANDS STRINGENT WELDER CERTIFICATION AND WELDMENT INSPECTION. QUALITY CONTROL FOR WELDING IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN THE OIL INDUSTRY AS IT IS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. THIS WAS PROVEN BY THE FACT EVERY WELD ON THE ALYESKA 48 INCH MAINLINE WAS X-RAYED AND VISUALLY INSPECTED. THOSE SEEKING TO ABOLISH THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS ARE WELDERS AND CONTRACTORS UNWILLING, UNQUALIFIED OR BOTH TO OPERATE UNDER STRICT CODES AND INSPECTION.

LEE METCALF, BUSINESS MANAGER LOCAL 367

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

Arctic Alaska Drilling Company

200 NORTH "C" STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
TELEPHONE (907) 276-5464

February 24, 1982

The Committee Chairman
Representative Terry Martin
Legislative House Labor & Commerce Committee
Twelfth Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Subject: Welding Regulation Hearing
February 26, 1982

Gentlemen;

We are writing in response to the paid advertisement on Sunday, February 21, 1982, in regards to Legislative House Bill #595.

Arctic Alaska Drilling Company is an Oil & Gas Well Drilling Contractor in Alaska. We hire welders to help us assemble, repair, and maintain our Drilling Rigs. We hire only Certified Welders. It is our policy to do our own quality control with people who are highly skilled in the welding industry. We are now bulding Rig #7, and to date we have not experienced any welding failure of any type, in our considerable years of operation.

This Bill #595 appears to be another Regulatory Commission that will need to be funded by the consumer, as business never pays for anything. At this day and time when Government is trying to control spending and help the people trying to cut costs, we feel this bill should not be passed.

Very truly yours

ARCTIC ALASKA DRILLING COMPANY



Roy H. Richardson
President and General Manager

GAS;clg

Enclosure: Advertisement of 2/21/82

LENOX



MOORE MECHANICAL INC.

536 E. 48TH AVE. - ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503 - (907) 276-7103

MOORE MECHANICAL, INC.

5001 Eagle

Anchorage, AK 99503

(907) 276-7103

NEW ADDRESS

February 25, 1982

The Honorable Terry Martin, Chairman
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Martin:

I have examined and carefully considered House Bill 595 -- State licensing of welding inspectors -- and respectfully urge you to vote against passage.

In this highly competitive industry, a welder's performance must be measured by his company to assure not only quality, but also compliance with Federal, State and Municipality codes and standards already in existence. Whether that inspector is licensed by the State is of little consequence as his performance will be dictated by his own integrity and the integrity of his employer.

The public will gain little protection against shoddy work by the licensing of welding inspectors. Rather, the public will ultimately be protected by the unhindered workings of the free marketplace in that companies or individuals offering an inferior product will be forced out of business.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Charles F. Moore
President

CFM/bd

cc: House Finance Committee - Chairman Albert P. Adams
House Judiciary Committee - Chairman Romona L. Barnes
Senate Finance Committee - Co-Chairman Don Bennett
Senate Judiciary Committee - Chairman Patrick M. Rodey
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee - Chairman Robert Mulcaby
Senate Rules Committee - Chairman Tim Kelly

MSG 82-00010386 PRTY 1 02/25/82 16:21:59 ORIG: LA00 IN= 0016 OUT= 00
FROM: JEAN, ANCH INFO TO: POM, JUNEAU INFO PAGE 00
TARGET: LJH2 SUBJ: POM

TO: REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN

FROM: THOMAS J. MARTIN
1107 W 53RD AVE
ANCHORAGE 99502

HB 595

(H) 279-2368

QUALITY IN WELDING DOES NOT COME THROUGH INSPECTION ALONE. QUALITY
BEGINS ON THE DRAWING BOARD AND IT IS AN ENGINEERING FUNCTION. QUALITY
IS PRODUCED BY QUALIFIED SUPERVISION WHEN WELDMENTS ARE MADE. ONE
CANNOT INSPECT QUALITY INTO WELDMENTS, IT'S TOO LATE THEN. INSPECTION
MERELY PROVES THAT WHAT WENT ON BEFORE WAS CORRECT. HB 595 PLACES
THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE AND IS WHOLLY INADEQUATE FOR GOOD WELDING.

Speaker of the House
• Gov. J. Hammond
Lt. Gov. Terry Miller
Pres. of the Senate
Sen. Bob Mulcahy.

Dear Mr. Speaker. [^{separate letters} Gov. Ham; etc

I wish to confer to you that the House Labor, Commerce Committee has reviewed the Board of Welding Examiners and has voted to sunset this Board. This has come as a surprise to most of us who in our first hearing felt the Board should be extended. However during the past month considerable public response has come to the Committee in opposition to extension.

required by AS 44.66.050(d) ^{in the report} Attach for your review ^{are} important correspondences that explicitly describe the concerns of professional and lay Alaskans if the Welding Board were extended.

It is ~~my~~ ^{our} firm conviction that the Welding Board serves no public service.

Yours very truly

Rep Terry Marten - Chairman

Rep Bernon Byrd

Rep David Randalph

Rep Brian Poyer

Rep Terry Dardner

Please.

P.S. Review Dir. of Legislative and Int. Control number 08-21-1004R
~~Review Dir. of Legislative and Int. Control number 08-21-1004R~~ To quote,

Lee / Lowell

A FOLLOW-UP REVIEW
OF THE
BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS
(originally released June 8, 1979)

November 24, 1980

Audit Control Number
08-21-1004-R

Commissioner, Department of
Commerce and Economic
Development

Charles Webber

Deputy Commissioner, Department
of Commerce and Economic
Development

Pete Jeans

Members of the
Board of Welding Examiners

Chairman
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member

Donald Lockman
Phillip B. Davis
Don Delk
George Fox
Peter Millar
J.C. Wingfield
Vacant

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
1021 W. 6th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

STATE OF ALASKA

AUDIT DIVISION
POUCH W—ALASKA OFFICE BUILDING

THE LEGISLATURE
BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

FINANCE DIVISION
POUCH WF—STATE CAPITOL

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

November 24, 1980

Members of the
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the intent of Titles 24 and 44 of the
Alaska Statutes, the attached report is submitted for your
review.

A FOLLOW-UP REVIEW
OF THE
BOARD OF WELDING EXAMINERS
(originally released June 8, 1979)

November 24, 1980



Gerald L. Wilkerson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit

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PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statutes 24.20.271(1) and 44.66.050 (sunset legislation), a follow-up review of the Board of Welding Examiners was conducted to determine whether the recommendations presented in the report entitled, A Performance Review of the Board of Welding Examiners, June 8, 1979, have been implemented, and, if not, whether those recommendations are still pertinent.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The Board of Welding Examiners was established by the 1968 Session Laws of Alaska. It is organized under the Department of Commerce and Economic Development which provides administrative and investigative support through the Division of Occupational Licensing.

The Board consists of seven members with extensive experience in welding who are appointed by the Governor for staggered five-year terms. At least three members must be engineers, i.e., with engineering degrees or registration as an engineer and at least five years engineering experience.

The functions of the Board are addressed in AS 08.99. Among the powers and duties cited, the statute directs the Board to: promulgate rules and regulations regarding the certification of welders; examine, certify and renew certification; define tests and certification methods; report annually to the Legislature and Governor.

Under regulations which became effective in August, 1978, the Board of Welding Examiners is licensing "welding inspectors" (WI). Among the functions of the WI are testing weldments and issuing welder qualification certificates. Such certificates are required under the regulations for welders performing operations in which weldment failure would be hazardous to life or property.

Requirements for WI licensure are based on the American Welding Society (AWS) program for certification of WI's. The written examination required for licensure is administered by AWS. In addition to other requirements for AWS certification, an applicant for State WI licensure must have passed a welder qualification test, demonstrating practical skills.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Policy Issues

This review contains policy issues raised as a result of our evaluation of various Board practices. The final policy decisions affecting these practices are not within the scope of this review but require legislative consideration. In debating these issues, the legislative oversight committees should consider the findings and alternatives presented in this report in reaching their decisions.

Report Conclusion

In our opinion, there is not a sufficient public need for continuing either the Board or State licensing of welding personnel. #

Most consumers (e.g., engineers, construction and pipeline companies) of welding services possess adequate knowledge to properly evaluate the qualifications of those offering the service. To assist in identifying qualifications, the American Welding Society administers a certification program for welding inspectors, the only classification of welding personnel being licensed by the State. If it is determined that State regulation of welding is desirable, less restrictive alternatives--such as statutory requirements for welder, qualification certificates--are viable (see Prior Audit Recommendation No. 1).

In the event that the Board is reestablished by the Legislature, certain changes should be implemented in order for the Board to more effectively serve the public.

The Board has made some progress in the implementation of our prior audit recommendations. Specifically, they now review applications prior to licensing, have adopted goals and objectives, and have prepared an annual report (See Prior Audit Recommendations No. 2 and No. 6).

The Board has proposed changes to regulations and statutes in response to some of our prior recommendations. However, the regulations have not been adopted nor have the statutes passed (See Prior Audit Recommendations No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5).

The Board has also proposed regulations which would expand their jurisdiction over compensated welding operations that involve economic loss. The Board has not defined "economic loss" nor has it defined other terms which need clarification (See Prior Audit Recommendation No. 5).

Other problems noted in our prior report have not been rectified. For example, application forms have not been revised, the terms and sources of nominations for Board membership has not changed and a Board vacancy has not been filled (See Prior Audit Recommendations No. 2 and No. 3).