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**Support for SB 1392, An Act Relative to Public Safety in
Excavation**

**Testimony of Scott Cameron, PLS presented Dec. 17, 2019
Before Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland
Security**

Prime Sponsor of SB 1392: Senator Brendan P. Crighton

Chairman Moore, Chairman Naughton

My name is Scott Cameron. I am a Professional Land Surveyor licensed in Massachusetts. I am Principal and President of R.E. Cameron & Associates. I am a second-generation owner of the company. I have over 40 years of experience in Land Surveying and Construction Engineering. I am a past President of the Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers, and I also served a seven-year term on Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

I am here to testify in favor of SB 1392 An Act Relative to Public Safety in Excavation.

Under the current law, Professional Land Surveyors do not have access to the Dig Safe System.

This important Bill will amend current DIG SAFE law [MGL c. 82, §§40, 40A- 40E] to add the term Professional Land Surveyor and its definition. That amendment would allow surveyors to gain access to utility location information at the preliminary design phase for a project.

SB 1392 will help reduce the number of construction change orders for public and private sector projects and improve construction site safety. It will protect and safeguard vital underground utilities such as gas lines, fiber optic conduit, and other public and private systems.

Professional Land Surveyors play an important role in collecting utility information at the inception of projects and create the underlying maps which form the basis of engineering and architectural design.

Surveyors have always embraced technology such as robotics, drones and Global Positioning Systems. But we are at a strict disadvantage by not having access to the best available utility information at the beginning of projects.

This Bill is supported by the American Public Works Association, Common Ground Alliance, and local and national Engineering and Land Surveying Societies.

- The Bill would enhance worker safety
- Protect critical underground infrastructure
- And ultimately ensure public safety

In Summary:

- SB 1392 would add the term “Professional Land Surveyor” and its definition to allow for the Dig-Safe law to be applicable for surveyors to obtain utility location information at the preliminary design phase for a facility, which would greatly assist the design and construction of the facility, including safety for workers as well as the general public.
- SB 1392 will help land surveyors access Dig-Safe information earlier in a project, when the project is in preliminary design. Specific, accurate utility location information at the design phase of projects will promote more efficient design and construction of facilities and protect the general public, utility company assets and the lives of contractors. The proposed change to Section 40B makes this provision applicable to surveyors as well as excavators to ensure proper notice of the markings.
- SB 1392 will help to reduce the number of construction change orders for public and private sector projects, saving money during construction and improving construction site safety.

I respectfully request this Committee to give a favorable report on SB 1392.

For more information, contact Abbie Goodman, agoodman@engineers.org or 617-305-4112.

SB 1392 is supported by the Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers (MALSCE) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA)