

only result in further waste of public funds, growth of bureaucracy, and a weakening of the importance of local government. S. 698 and related bills represent a comprehensive and sincere plan for reducing and overcoming such problems, and we are, therefore, pleased to extend to it our support and to recommend its adoption.

We greatly appreciate this opportunity to present our views on this very important subject.

We thank you.

**TESTIMONY OF BILLY T. SUMNER, REGIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN,
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, NATIONAL
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

Mr. SUMNER. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I greatly appreciate this opportunity to present the views of the National Society of Professional Engineers on S. 698, the proposed Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.

As Mr. Reutter, my colleague, stated, my name is Billy T. Sumner. I am a professional engineer, registered in six States, and a partner in the consulting engineering and planning firm of Barge, Waggoner & Sumner, of Nashville, Tenn. I am vice chairman of the Professional Engineers in Private Practice Section of the National Society of Professional Engineers for the Southeastern region and also serve as chairman of the section's Government Relations Committee.

The National Society of Professional Engineers is a nonprofit organization composed of 53 State and territorial professional engineering societies with more than 500 chapters and over 66,000 members, all of whom are qualified under applicable State engineering registration laws. Our membership includes professional engineers engaged in virtually every specialized branch of engineering practice and type of employment—Government, education, industry, and private practice.

I would like to comment today on behalf of NSPE on the provisions of title III of S. 698 relating to specialized or technical services to state and local governments, upon request, on a reimbursable basis. "Specialized or technical services" are defined in section 108 of the bill to cover such a broad range of services that in the absence of clear language in the bill to the contrary, coupled with a clear expression of congressional intent in the legislative history, we would be seriously concerned that title III might be interpreted and applied to put Federal departments and agencies in direct competition with private firms and consultants already providing such services to state and local governments.

Happily, when this committee was considering similar provisions in the predecessor bill to S. 698 (S. 561 in the 89th Cong.) it was agreed by all concerned that the intent was not to place the Federal Government in competition with private firms and consultants, but simply to make available to state and local governments services which they otherwise would not be able to obtain.

As stated in the report of this committee on S. 561 (S. Rept. No. 538, 89th Cong., first sess.) :

* * * in light of recommendations made by the Budget Bureau, the Advisory Commission, and Mr. Paul H. Robbins, Executive Director of the National