

# The UCLS Newsletter



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### What is it?

Prior to the pioneers arrival into the Salt Lake Valley, this iconic marking was etched in stone. Do you know where it is located and who left it?

Correctly identify the mark and the person who left it and you may be eligible for a free luncheon at your next chapter meeting.

Answers may be emailed to [srmerrill@ucls.org](mailto:srmerrill@ucls.org). The earliest received date and its time of response will determine the winner.

**In This Issue:** the convention and workshop committee gives us a glimpse of our upcoming annual conference; Jim Kaiserman shares a record of survey review checklist; and the benefits of a national organization is documented by a letter to the U.S. Department of Labor.

For the first time in the short history of the UCLS Newsletter, all four members invited to share their “getting to know you” profile have contributed. Additionally, Dennis Carlisle sent us an interesting rod-holder picture, Surveyor Sam shares another “Trick of the Trade” experience, Dan Perry outlines the goals of UVU, and reports from various chapters and committees have been summarized.

Do you have a picture to share? We invite you to share charismatic photos of yourself and/or coworker, panoramic images of Utah’s scenic wonders, or pictures of survey related tools and equipment. Additionally, we need interesting and unique descriptions or survey related stories to share with our membership. Remember, if you do not participate you have no right to complain. Please let us know your thoughts, recommendations, suggestions, or complaints.

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“The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of Thanksgiving.  
 -H.U. Westermaver

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### Another Trick or Two

by: Sam Surveyor

You might not think that land surveying is the kind of thing that will get your hands dirty. If so, you're sorely mistaken. I have come off a job covered in muck. How about trying to write in your notes or field book after cleaning out a monument full of mud. Just try to keep a clean record. It's in those times I'm glad I had some **rags** in my truck. You can pick them up at Auto Zone or Wally World for a very cheap price. Even changing a tire can get dirty. I use rags for more than my hands. I have been glad I could clean off a chain, or level rod. How about cleaning the lens that fogs up, or when you spill hot cocoa on the seat, like that never happens right.

As far as being prepared. How about a small first aid kit? I have a first aid kit I put together for all my kids to have when they leave home. It's the same one I take backpacking and fits in a bag half the size of a scripture bag if you can relate. You can find a small type bag at the D.I. Here's the list.

- \_\_\_ Band Aids      \_\_\_ Nail Clippers      \_\_\_ Cortizone      \_\_\_ Pepto      \_\_\_ Mole Skin
- \_\_\_ Scissors      \_\_\_ Neosporin      \_\_\_ Ibuprofen      \_\_\_ Alcohol Pads      \_\_\_ Needle & Thread
- \_\_\_ Curel Lotion      \_\_\_ Aspirin      \_\_\_ White Tape      \_\_\_ Match/Lighter      \_\_\_ Visine
- \_\_\_ Pseudo Fed      \_\_\_ Ace Bandage      \_\_\_ Toothbrush      \_\_\_ Savex      \_\_\_ Imodium
- \_\_\_ Gauze Pads      \_\_\_ Warmer      \_\_\_ Hand Sanitizer      \_\_\_ Bendaryl      \_\_\_ Q-Tips
- \_\_\_ \$2.35      \_\_\_ Shampoo      \_\_\_ Tums      \_\_\_ Feminine Napkin      \_\_\_ Tampons
- \_\_\_ Soap      \_\_\_ Clor Tabs      \_\_\_ Halls      \_\_\_ Batteries      \_\_\_ Sun Block
- \_\_\_ Super Glue      \_\_\_ Ben Gay

It's the little things that help. I dig into this kit every week for something. I'm not getting any younger and that's a fact. I hope to see you in the trades, I mean fields. Remember I'm pulling for ya.



Do you have a survey related photo to share with us?

These pictures were provided by Timpagonos Chapter President Dennis Carisle, of a USGS bench mark near Laramie, Wyoming. Notice the interesting stand/rod holder. Thanks Dennis.

# UCLS 2014 CONVENTION ST. GEORGE, UTAH



## “TITLE AND THE SURVEYOR”

The UCLS 2014 Convention is set for February 19 – 21, 2014 at the Dixie Center in St. George, on 1835 S. Convention Center Drive, kicking off promptly at noon with open registration and our first session at 1:00 pm. The UCLS online registration will be opening up on December 1, 2013 - so start planning.

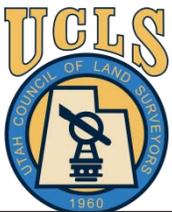
The convention hotels will be the Hilton Garden Inn - \$95 single, \$105 double, 1731 S. Convention Center Drive. Phone 435-634-4100; Clarion Suites - \$80.00, 1239 S. Main Street, 435-673-7000; Best Western Abbey Inn - \$80.00 single, \$85.00 double, 1129 S Bluff Street, 435-652-1234; Fairfield Inn - \$89.00, 1660 S. Convention center Drive, 435-673-6066. You may start making your reservations now, ask for the UCLS Convention Rate.

Rick Hafen a local Attorney and Surveyor will start by presenting on Water Rights, the Historical elements as well as current issues and the role of surveyors in the water rights process.

Thursday will be a full day of great presentations by our main presenter, Dennis Mouland. Dennis is a registered professional surveyor in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Management, and has been in the surveying profession since 1972. His experience is evenly split between the private sector, including his own surveying firm, and federal government employment. Dennis will be presenting on topics such as Advanced Land Description Systems, Restoration of Lost Corners, and Corner Evidence Analysis.

Thursday evening will be the UCLS Officer Installation Banquet and Entertainment starting at 6:00 pm.

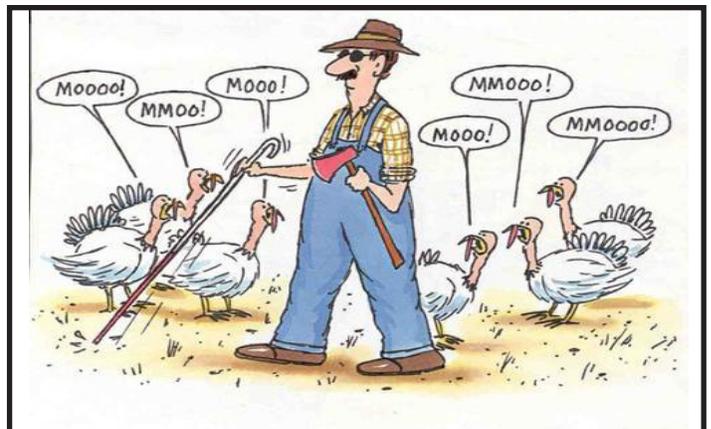
We are pleased to have Paul D. Newton an Attorney and Vice President with Backman Title Services, Shawn Farris an Attorney with Farris & Utley, PC., Gary Christensen with Southern Utah Title Company, Mark Silver with Igage, and Shawn Fernandez with the AGRC to name a few that will be presenting at our various sessions on Friday. They will be talking about title issues, OPUS project and the State GPS System.



We are looking for donations as well as help with the scholarship auction from each of you and our various committees so please contact Scott Woolsey or James Olschewski for your donations - or to provide input.



Wanted- Historical maps of Utah for the annual UCLS calendar.  
Email to Greg Hansen at [gregh@haies.net](mailto:gregh@haies.net)



## Getting to Know Our Members

Name: **Scott Bishop**

Residing at: **Pleasant Grove**  
My spouse is **Kristy** and I am a parent of **4 girls**  
My hobbies and/or interests include **camping, being outdoors and spending time with my family - I will go fishing or duck hunting any chance I get.**

When I retire, I want to be **retired. Too many surveyors don't actually retire.**



I have been a member of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors since **2002** and **wish that more surveyors would be actively involved and participate on the UCLS committees.**

My current employer is **Horrocks Engineers**  
My position or title is **Land Surveyor** and I am responsible for **mostly Right of Way work but I do get out in the field occasionally for good behavior.**

I have been employed by this company since **Dec. 2008** but have been involved in the surveying profession since **June 1, 2000.**

I became a surveyor because **I couldn't find another job after my mission and I fell in love with it.**

During the past **15** years, **GPS** has had the greatest impact on the surveying profession. However, during the next **5** years, I believe **scanning/lidar/remote sensing** will have the most influence on its future.

In my opinion, the future of surveying is **going to be just fine as long as we stay involved in our communities and educate the public on how important surveying is.**

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Name: **Lucas Blake**

Residing at: **Moab**  
My spouse is **Shadie** and I am a parent of **2** children  
My hobbies and/or interests include **running, climbing, white water rafting, and hunting**  
When I retire, I want to **build a cabin and explore**  
I have been a member of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors since **2009** and wish they would **keep the conferences in St. George.**

My current employer is **Lisbon Valley Mining Co./ Red Desert Land surveying**

My position or title is **Mine Survey manager/owner** and I am responsible for **ore control, grade control, pit and dump limits, volume and tonnage reconciliation, as-built, mining claims, exploration drill locations/ site plans, boundary surveys, flood elevation certificates, and**

**construction staking.**

I have been employed by this company since **2011** but have been involved in the profession since **2006.**

I became a surveyor because I love the **outdoors. I would be happy if every job placed in the middle of no where looking for section corners.**

During the past **5** years, the **greatest recession** has had the greatest impact on the surveying profession. However, during the next **10** years, I believe **new technologies** will have the most influence on its future.

In my opinion, the future of surveying will be performed from **inside a vehicle using a remote. We will become fatter than we already are.**

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Name: **Dusty Bishop**

Residing at: **Payson**  
My spouse is **happily Married** and I am a parent of **6** children.

My hobbies and/or interests include **hunting, camping, shooting, and building stuff.**  
When I retire, I want to **actually go on vacation.**

I have been a member of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors since **2005** and wish they **would always have the convention in St. George, since, until I retire, it's the only vacation I get.**

My current employer is **Ensign Engineering and Land Surveying Inc.**

My position or title is **Land Surveyor** and I am responsible for **picking points, drawing surveys, writing legals, pounding stakes, slogging through mud and snow, and driving a lot.**

I have been employed by this company since **1997** but have been involved in the surveying profession since **1990.**

I became a surveyor because **it sounded good at the time, and now I have 6 kids and a mortgage, but seriously, I really enjoy the work - especially when we get a job out in the desert or mountains.**

During the past **few** years, **GPS** has been the greatest impact on the surveying profession.

However, during the next **few** years, I believe a **combination of GPS, robotics, and laser scanners** will have the most influence on its future.

In my opinion, the future of surveying is **bright, so make sure you wear shades.**



Getting to know our members continued...

Name: **Kevin S Bishop**

Residing at: **358 East 160 North**

My spouse is **Amy** and I am a parent of **3** children.

My hobbies and/or interests include **travel and spending time with my family. Camping and cooking hotdogs over an open fire.**

When I retire, **I want to travel with my wife**

I have been a member of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors since **2002**.

My current employer is **Oak Hills Surveying Associates**

My position or title is **Owner/Manager** and **I am responsible for nearly everything that happens at the office.**

I have been employed by this company since **2007** but have been involved in the surveying profession since **2001**.

I became a surveyor because of **my love of the outdoors and the influence and association of land surveyors and their love of the profession.**

During the next **10** years, I believe **new young, recently graduated surveyors** will have the most influence on its future.

In my opinion, the future of surveying is **outstanding. As development increase and raw ground becomes more scarce, the professional surveyor will be essential in determining property rights, ownership, easements, utilities and an assisting with the overall impact of development and real estate transactions.**




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### UCLS Education Committee

by: Dan Perry

Our committee needs a major insurgence of interested members. This committee is responsible for the scholarship funding including the Annual Convention silent auction, the UCLS student scholarship advertising, candidate evaluation, and recommendations. We also are tasked with the improvement in and sponsorship of surveying education and assessment. Currently, Chris Moore, Dave Balling, and I are the only members of this committee so this report is a call for HELP!!! We need your interest, ideas, and energy to move the UCLS educational objectives forward. We try to meet every other month via the internet for only an hour. We have the upcoming convention in February which needs auction planning and assistance as well as some good discussion on education of our members. If you can devote an hour a month and some additional time during the annual convention please contact me at 801-863-8525 or perrydl@uvu.edu.

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### Golden Spike Chapter

by: David Balling

In October, we had a great lunch at Javier's in So Ogden. That's real mexican food and the story of Javier Chavez is interesting.

Scott Bishop from DOPL, he serves on the 5-man board that reviews the regulations of surveyors and engineers, was our speaker. He presented information that was good to know and made us realize that this board is important and helpful.

For November, we will meet with the Salt Lake chapter for a joint meeting. The meeting will be held at the Sizzler in Bountiful. It is located right off the 500 South exit off I-15 in Bountiful. Val Shultz from the Weber County Surveyor's Office will address us. He always provides relevant incite to national issues we should know about. Come share in the fun.

Remember to fill out the nomination forms for new officers and get involved. We will keep you posted of the upcoming meetings and send flyers.

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### Timpanogos Chapter

by: Dennis Carlisle

The Timpanogos Chapter held a luncheon on Thursday, October 24th at the Orem Golden Corral. Dan Perry (Associate Professor & Geomatics Program Coordinator) and Sowmya Selvarajan (Assistant Professor of Geomatics) from Utah Valley University were in attendance along with several of their Geomatics students, as well as about a dozen chapter members. Dan gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Geomatics Program and scholarships currently available to students. These scholarships come from not only the University and other sources, but also from UCLS, NSPS, WestFed, Monsen Engineering, etc. It was surprising to learn that many of the scholarships go unclaimed, or have very few applicants.

## UVU Geomatics Program Update

by: Dan Perry

### ABET Accreditation

The Geomatics Program at Utah Valley University (UVU) is seeking specific accreditation over and above the universities current accreditation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) through the Applied Science Accreditation Commission (ASAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). The process is lengthy and involves many hours of assembly and development of documentation regarding teaching techniques and methods as well as curriculum and course quality and education rigor. The UVU Geomatics Advisory Board - Academic Committee is heavily involved in this process with the goal of receiving accreditation by Fall semester 2016.

### Cohort Begins Fall 2014

We have started a new schedule for the program beginning Fall semester 2014 we will start our first cohort or group where in Geomatics students will move through the program as a group taking the same courses. This schedule change will positively impact the number of enrollments in each Geomatics course as well as provide an esprit-de-corps with other students in the program which we think will improve student engagement and retentions. Basically, it's more fun and easier to take classes with people you know who have the same educational goals. As of this writing, it looks like we will have approximately 15-17 students accepted into the first group (cohort) beginning next Fall semester.

### New Dean of the College of Technology and Computing

We have a new Dean; Michael Savoie comes to UVU with tremendous practical experience and education and who I quickly discovered is a serious proponent of Geomatics. He has some terrific plans for the future of Geomatics at UVU and I will be running to catch up to his vision. For example, he would like us to submit for approval a few different Certificates in GIS. One of which could be a graduate certificate for those individuals who have already earned a bachelor's degree but are unable to or who are having difficulty obtaining employment. Such a skill-based certificate could improve their marketability especially for someone with a Geomatics degree. The Dean also has plans on much more community involvement and partnerships with local firms doing internships, projects, etc. He is a great addition to the university and to the Geomatics Program.

### Getting a Geomatics degree from a Distance

For those individuals who still want to earn a bachelors (4-year) degree in Geomatics but live outside of Utah Valley. We continue to offer our classes via the internet and Google+hangout. We do not officially offer distance education/online courses, but in reality most of our courses can be taught via a webcam and video conferencing/chat. So if you want a BS degree contact us.

Our website is [www.uvu.edu/geomatics](http://www.uvu.edu/geomatics) and my email is [perrydl@uvu.edu](mailto:perrydl@uvu.edu) and our academic advisor is [Agif-ford@uvu.edu](mailto:Agif-ford@uvu.edu). 801-863-6597.



### October "Who is it"

I'm sure many of our members recognized October's "Who is it" candidate but unfortunately, nobody identified what he was being recognized for.

The Western Federation of Professional surveyors (WFPS) recently recognized Ron Whitehead for twenty years of dedicated service to their organization. Ron has been the UCLS delegate to WFPS for many years. Congratulations Ron!

WFPS is a regional non-profit organization composed of Land Surveyors associations representing the 13 western states. Formed in 1979, WFPS is dedicated to education, fostering common goals within the western states and providing a regional voice at the national level. Ron has been the UCLS delegate for many years.

## SURVEYING

# Put your drawing review checklist in order



**Wendy J.  
WOODBURY  
STRAIGHT  
L.S.**

**S**elf-evident but occasionally worth reiterating is the crucial necessity of utilizing a checklist for in-house review of boundary survey drawings. Because even the seemingly innocuous typographic error can later prove to be an embarrassment, employing a review list before the blueprints leave the office diminishes the chances of egg on the face.

The review document should be created by the company's boundary staff, including crew chiefs, deed analysts, the computations team, and drafting personnel. Likewise, each of the four departments should examine the completed drawing before or as it is reviewed by the professional land surveyor. Some offices additionally retain a quality control reviewer who examines drawings upon their release, a practice that is highly recommended. He or she should also be part of the committee that develops the checklist.

Each team member will bring a unique perspective to the creation of the review document. Crew chiefs will wish to verify that the drawing matches the survey site and that all field notes have been taken into account. The deed analyst will be looking for effective title data to be shown on the drawing. The computations crew will check, among other things, closure of the figure and the offsets of monuments. The drafting staff will check the spelling of text and clarity of layout. The quality control reviewer will recognize details that are typically overlooked and will emphasize their placement on the checklist.

The team should begin with a copy of local and regional surveying standards and specifications, from which a list of required drawing items can be made. Additional points to be addressed will be added by specific team members, with the professional land surveyor and quality control reviewer adding final touches. A second review list can be made for specialized boundary surveys such as ALTA/ACSM land title surveys, projects for which a separate and national specification must be applied. A portion of such a checklist will come from the specifications themselves; other pertinent items will be incorporated according to individual office policies or from local and regional standards.

The following beginner checklist is a sample that might be applied in even the smallest land surveying office, where one or two people may comprise more than one department. Starting with such a rudimentary and generic list, each firm should establish its own polished document.

1. Does the title block appear with company name, address, and phone number?
2. Are client and project names correct?
3. Is location information correct (name of municipality or township, county, and state)?
4. Are the scales correctly shown?
5. Does the correct date or revision date appear?
6. Is the north arrow correctly shown and does it include a basis for bearings?
7. Is there a legend or key indicating symbols for monuments found or set?
8. Are all required monuments and control points shown?
9. Are the great lot, township, and range correctly shown?
10. Does the figure contain sufficient distances and bearings or angles?
11. Are all boundaries labelled either by their title identification or as proposed and subject to jurisdictional regulation?
12. Are streets correctly labelled and their widths shown?
13. Are lot, block, and plat data sufficient?
14. Is the deed tie shown and is it correct?
15. Are other deed calls sufficiently shown, including adjoining where required?
16. Are title documents sufficiently cited (abstract ID numbers, title policy ID numbers, libers and pages of deeds and mortgages)?
17. Are house numbers, setbacks, and offsets sufficiently shown?
18. Are other pertinent improvements such as sheds, pools, driveways, utilities, and fences shown with their respective offsets?
19. Are neighboring improvements sufficiently shown (as specified in local surveying standards)?
20. Are pertinent streams or ditches shown?
21. Are recorded easements shown?
22. Are potential easements shown as found in the field?
23. Have all other field notes and shots been taken into account?
24. Is area shown and correct?
25. Is there a reference to standards and specifications?
26. Are certifications shown as requested?
27. Is the drawing clear, and is there sufficient white space for professional

stamps and seals?

A copy of the finalized list should be placed with each surveying job in progress, to remain for posterity even with the closed project file. As each department has reviewed the drawing, items will have been initialed by each respective reviewer.

In some regions, it is customary or required to affix the record description or a proposed description to the drawing. Or, it may be company practice to include a proposed description with the final package of blueprints. In any case, if a description is a part of the project, it must be checked in as rigorous a fashion as the drawing.

A surefire way to verify the description text, the figure closure, and the area computation is to allow a staff member unfamiliar with the project to examine the description *without* the drawing in hand. He or she should recreate the described figure in CAD or with a hand-held calculator. Such blind checks prevent the type of oversights commonly made by those too familiar with the project, those who may have looked at the drawing too long.

Topographic survey drawings also require a quality check, and their review document should combine the boundary survey checklist with typical contouring items and planimetric details specified by architects and engineers. As-built drawings of stake-out surveys should also be subjected to a carefully established in-house checklist.

Moreover, since the National Society of Professional Surveyors and its umbrella organization, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, are developing model standards for GPS surveys and for GIS/LIS surveys, firms may wish to use such models to establish routine checklists for every type of survey to be performed and for every document to be released.

Talented CAD personnel will wish to automate portions of the checklist and print out a verification. For example, a routine that automatically prompts for items such as north arrow, basis of bearings, scale, date, client name, and legend might also check each of those items before executing a plot.

Although the review list and its requisite attention to detail are not advertised to the public, the professional result itself will solidify a firm's reputation for care and efficiency. ■

*Wendy Woodbury Straight has been owner of Woodbury Surveying in Dunkirk, N.Y., for the past 13 years. She is also the editor of "Progress and Perspectives" newsletter. Her e-mail address is wendy@netsync.net.*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
 LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

PAMELA J. SMITH, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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<http://help.senate.gov>

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez  
 Secretary of Labor  
 U.S. Department of Labor  
 200 Constitution Ave., NW  
 Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

As members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, we write to request information about the Department of Labor (DOL) Wage and Hour Division's guidance that expands its classification of survey crew members (surveyors) as laborers or mechanics under the Davis-Bacon Act. Specifically, we are concerned that DOL modified its longstanding application of the law to surveyors without proper transparency and without the benefit of broad stakeholder input. Part of the Committee's charge is to conduct oversight of issues that impact our nation's labor laws. Therefore, we request a staff briefing and documents related to DOL's decision.

On March 22, 2013, DOL issued guidance that appears to expand an interpretation of the law that applies to surveyors.<sup>1</sup> Since the 1960s, surveyors generally have not been classified as "laborer[s] or mechanic[s]" under the Davis-Bacon Act, relying on guidance from DOL that surveyors who would fall under the definition of "laborer or mechanic" were not common. Accordingly, surveyors often have not been covered by the Act's labor standards. However, the new guidance appears to retract 50 years of precedent by expanding the class of surveyors that would be considered laborers or mechanics. The new guidance strikes certain enumerated activities that delineated between manual and nonmanual work and establishes a new method for determining whether a surveyor's primary duties are manual labor.

In making this change, it appears DOL did not provide public notice, conduct public hearings, or make any other effort to alter its longstanding policy in a fair and open process. On August 4, 2011, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) wrote to DOL requesting that certain surveyors be covered by the Davis-Bacon Act.<sup>2</sup> Nineteen months later, DOL responded to IUOE's request and issued its guidance the same day.<sup>3</sup> While DOL's memo claims that

<sup>1</sup> Applicability of Davis-Bacon Labor Standards to Members of Survey Crews, Memo. No. 212 (Dep't of Labor Mar. 22, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Mary Beth Maxwell, Acting Deputy Admin'r, Wage & Hour Div., Dep't of Labor, to Elizabeth A. Nadeau, Assoc. Gen. Counsel, Int'l Union of Operating Eng'rs 1 (Mar. 22, 2013) and *supra* note 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

Senate Letter Continued...

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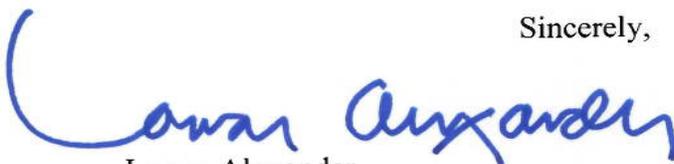
expansion of the term “laborer or mechanic” was necessary “in light of information indicating that the composition and work of field survey crews have evolved with new technology,”<sup>4</sup> DOL did not elaborate on the sources of information used to reach this determination. It is unclear from the public record whether other stakeholders were given an opportunity to comment or what additional analysis DOL conducted to study the issue. We are concerned that DOL may have issued its guidance without the benefit of all relevant data.

Indeed, since DOL published its guidance, impacted parties have expressed concern that it will impose a costly administrative burden on surveying firms and contracting agencies.<sup>5</sup> To assess the aforementioned concerns, we request a staff briefing and the following documents no later than November 14, 2013:

- 1) All documents and communications referring or relating to DOL’s decision not to seek public comment on AAM No. 212: Applicability of Davis-Bacon labor standards to members of survey crews.
- 2) All documents and communications referring or relating to IUOE’s request to DOL that certain surveyors are covered under Davis-Bacon.
- 3) All documents and communications referring or relating to any economic analysis DOL conducted related to AAM No. 212: Applicability of Davis-Bacon labor standards to members of survey crews.

Please have your staff contact Kristin Nelson, Oversight Counsel, for HELP Committee at 202-224-9799 to schedule the requested briefing and arrange production of documents. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions



Pat Roberts  
Member  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor and Pensions

<sup>4</sup> See supra note 1.

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Curtis W. Sumner, Exec. Dir., Nat’l Soc’y of Prof. Surveyors, to Patricia Davidson, Deputy Admin’r. for Program Operations, U.S. Dep’t of Labor (Aug. 20, 2013).