March 12, 2025

Ward Lyon, Director
Wisconsin Fire Service Education Office (FSEO)
4622 University Ave
Madison WI 53705

Dear Ward,

Thank you for soliciting input from the fire service community regarding the current requirements for recertification of Fire and Emergency Services Instructors (FESI). The Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors (WSESI) has taken this issue very seriously, and members of its Board of Directors have discussed it at some length.

Numerous questions surrounding the issue have remained unaddressed, in some cases for years, and were part and parcel of our discussion, and while it is evident that meaningful reform is overdue, the overwhelming consensus of the WSESI leadership is that **renewal of FESI certification should remain a requirement.**

The most compelling reason for our position is that instructors' qualifications and competence directly impact the safety and well-being of the responders we train. The Society's mission is to assist and support instructors in developing these, not merely to fulfill a requirement but for the benefit of those we teach. The introduction of Live Fire Instructor (LFI) curriculum and competencies into the system raises the stakes in this debate.

While our discussion included many of the root causes of the problems and possible remedies for the recertification process, we realize that dialogue needs to be continued, and solutions brought forward. Eliminating the renewal requirement would hollow out that discussion and render it ineffective, resulting in a loss of our legacy of excellence in fire training.

WSESI is committed to instructor development and support and stands ready to work with FSEO and all its constituents to develop an authentic renewal process. If you permit us the opportunity, we will continue to engage with this issue for the benefit of instructors and their students.

Sincerely,

Kevin P. Gerarden
Executive Secretary