

Re: HB 3337public comment for herring.

Please include this letter in the public comment for the herring on HB 3337, I am sending this to you with that intent. My name is Larry Thomas and have been actively a Licensed Landscape Professional and own and operate a Licensed Landscape Construction Business for 16 years. During my career as a landscaper I have been quite involved the Oregon Landscape Industry and received two separate Governor appointments to serve on the Landscape Contractors Board. I have an interest in maintaining a strong program to protect the Oregon Consumer. That has been the intent of the LCB since it's inception. This bill HB 3337 if passed will erode the Consumer protection the Citizens of Oregon have relied on as they pursue their landscape projects whether residential or on a commercial level.

If passed, it creates a new license category that does not carry the consumer protections that the current licenses categories provide.

By not requiring any applicant qualifications and no minimum standards test for the new category LCB license the State of Oregon may be setting up a confusing double standard for the consumer to wade through.

- At this time all license applicants must meet minimum standards in order to take the test to be a Licensed Landscape Professional.
- A test is given and must be pass with a 70% correct score.

Removing those Consumer Protection requirements from a new limited license category does nothing to maintain the level of Consumer Protection that the current licensing program provides. This bill, although meant to assist new and small businesses may actually create an environment of increased consumer claims at the LCB. The value of \$8000.00 may seem like a small and insignificant price for a landscape construction project. The reality is that the \$8000.00 amount may be the maximum a consumer can afford. When that project goes bad there may be no more funds to fix the mess that the contractor caused due to lack of education and experience, something the current license requires before a license can be issued and work started.

In closing I would like to say the during my terms with the LCB we endeavored to open the door to new applicants. We increased the many ways an applicant can qualify for the test. The LCB streamlined the test to better meet the current trends in the industry. One item I worked on and am quite proud of is The Planting License, an entry level license although easier to obtain still provides the same Consumer Protection that the other licensed categories provide. Please do not create a license that stands alone and separate from all the current license categories.

Vote no. Do not send this to House. It will create a double standard and a confusing environment for the Consumer in the future.

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