

Testimony in Opposition to HB 3337

I have been a part of the Green Industry for over 40 years. In that time I have spent my time in the trenches, had my own landscape business and taught others on what was required to become a professional in the landscape field. One student I was most proud of earned his landscape license (on the third try) at the age of 67, continuing another 12 years in the field. In my classes, sitting beside those working toward their licenses, I have had licensed contractors working on their Continuing Education Hours (CEH's). Some of those contractors have come up to me afterward telling me how much they had learned, when they thought they already knew all there was to know on the particular subject. It was gratifying and a reminder of why the CEH's were installed into the Oregon code. Landscape and irrigation are continually changing and it is imperative for the health of the industry that education and knowledge be at the forefront of getting and maintaining the Landscape Professional License. I will continue to work toward the betterment of the industry I have spent two-thirds of my life enjoying. HB 3337 does not help the landscape industry, therefore must not be approved.

David Searcy
Medford Water Commission
Conservation Coordinator
Past Chair SOLA

HB 3337 looks like quite a windfall for lawyers. If I am reading this correctly, it eliminates all qualifications for landscape professionals other than insurance, bond, and paying for licenses. Anyone with a checkbook is approved? Takes me back to the Seventies. Oh, wait. I studied to pass the difficult landscape exam in the Seventies. I was proud to be recognized by the State that I was qualified to hold an Oregon license.

I am wondering if there would be any need for the LCB other than supplying forms, taking fees, and holding contractor bonds. Sounds like landscapers would soon go back to the CCB for licensing.

Over the years, I have been called upon by the Landscape Contractors Board to review several jobs that were under review for damages due to poor installations. None of these installations were as much as current value of \$8,000, though the damages were significantly greater than that amount. The assumption that landscaping may be done to an acceptable standard by anyone off the street is irresponsible.

I hope the District 23 Representative looks at streamlining other professions. I would like to garage my landscape tools and open a law office. My checkbook is ready. Lots of trusting landscape consumers will need legal services. 😊

Mike Johnson
The Sprinklerman
Lic. #10537

Just putting in my two cents worth on this new bill. I am not sure of this representative's motives but it sure seems like a slap in the face to all of us who have worked very hard not only to be licensed but maintain it as well. A bad idea to say the least. I vote no!

Sincerely,
Alan Tuck
Lic. #13034
SOLA Member at large

Hello everyone up there. I have been trying to understand what's behind Bill 3337. I definitely opposed it. It is not fair for some people like myself that don't have a college degree or even a high school diploma. We struggle to get ourselves educated and pass examinations to get a license. Then somebody else does nothing except pay money that makes an equal playing field to do the job themselves. My response to this is please be fair to the Oregon people. Don't make matters worse for those that have already struggled to get where we are.

Sincerely,
Jose Leal
Bella Auroa Landscaping & Maintenance Inc.
Lic. #14897

What is the motivation for this change? This bill is a terrible idea. The LCB is intended to protect consumers, without education and certification requirements that protection is gone. Anyhow, I will look into this more. I have my Landscape Professionals License even though I don't work for a for-profit Landscape Company. One of the benefits currently of having my license is that it shows my employer and potential employers that I have knowledge of all aspects of Landscape Care and it provides a level of accreditation. Without the license and required education to obtain how will municipal, State, and Higher Education facilities determine qualifications for employment? I assume they will start requiring an BS degree in Landscape Technology.

Michael Oxindine
Southern Oregon University
Lic. #15598

A reliable and efficient landscape and irrigation system design is dependent on several important factors. Landscaping professionals should have an understanding of hydraulics and the ability to calculate system pressure, friction losses and zone flow and then be able to select the appropriate equipment to meet these system capacity requirements. The landscape professional should also be able to calculate pipe and valve sizes, calculate the slope of a property (which may determine type of sprinklers used or a change in watering schedule) develop proper sprinkler spacing, address backflow requirements, identify microclimates and establish hydrozones as well as understand soil type and plant selection.

If any one of these areas is weak or not competently executed, the overall quality of the system is diminished and the efficiency of the irrigation system is compromised. This is not what we want for our customers in Oregon.

Education, training and testing should be a requirement for licensing. The science behind the installation and design of a landscape is not always apparent to the average person, however careful attention to these details is necessary to ensure a high performing reliable system. Landscape professionals should be held to a higher standard than maintenance professionals.

Julie Smitherman,
City of Ashland Water Conservation Specialist
Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor #92534
SOLA Vice Chair