

Dear Representative Reardon:

I own a landscape design/construction business in the Portland area and have been a licensed landscape contractor since the late 90's. I'm also President Elect for the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association State Board.

I understand that the licensing requirements are difficult for many to pass, but the simple fact is if they are taken away, it will be the consumer who suffers. Our industry is amazingly technical including aspects such as soil conditioning, irrigation installation, lighting design & installation, retaining wall & patio installation and plant selection & placement. Taking away the current licensing requirements (which tests basic knowledge of all these) will, without a doubt, lower the bar of landscape contracting happening in our state. If I was a consumer of these services, simply put, I would be upset and concerned about this; just as I would if it was happening with any other trade (e.g. plumbing, electrical, etc.).

Obviously, if I was starting a landscape contracting business or was having difficulty passing the test, I might appreciate the testing process being taken away. However, the testing process is not in place for us, the contractor. It is there for the consumer, and it makes a difference on the consumer's end by forcing anyone serious about making a career out of landscape contracting to learn more about it (if for no other reason than to prepare for the test).

I love our industry and would encourage anyone who's passionate about it to consider making it a career. We have an amazing community of landscape contractors in Oregon and I believe part of what makes us great is our knowledge about our industry. Lowering the well-thought-out and reasonable requirements we currently have puts the consumer at risk and cheapens the professionalism and quality of landscape contracting Oregon State consumers currently experience.

Sincerely,

Jesse Brough

Owner


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