

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
State Capital
Salem, Oregon 97301

April 4, 2017
Testimony in Opposition to HB 3337

Dear Chairman Reardon and Committee Members,

I am a Landscape Designer in Portland, Oregon. Designers differ from Registered Landscape Architects in that we are not regulated or licensed, and are not allowed by statute to provide construction specifications for the gardens we design. Our designs are limited to "Conceptual Plans", and so we bear limited liability for our designs.

We rely on Licensed Landscape Construction Professionals to install projects we design for our clients so they will be built with integrity, quality and last a lifetime. Requirements for Insurance and Bonding as well as availability of the claims process by the Landscape Contractors Board provide security for Homeowners. The rigorous test that LCP's need to pass to acquire their license assures me and my clients of a basic level of experience and knowledge, and the requirements for continued education on the latest technology in irrigation, lighting and materials increase our level of confidence. Designers need to know that our projects are being built to current standards, since we cannot include construction details on our designs.

The Oregon Landscape Contractors Board has taken measures in the past few years to make the Landscape Construction Professional License more accessible to potential small landscape businesses. Requirements to sit for the exam have been reduced, the exam itself has been extensively reviewed and refined to make sure the questions reflect current conditions in the field, a comprehensive study guide has been published and made available, a new hands-on test has been implemented, continuing education hours have been reduced, and efforts are underway to make the test available in Spanish. Most recently, a limited Planting License was introduced that allows maintenance people as well as Designers to do installations that do not involve hardscape elements (walls, patios, paths, etc.), irrigation or lighting.

Perhaps these improvements should be given some time to see how they improve the opportunities for potential landscape contractors? Please consider letting the work of prior legislatures do what they were intended to do before more extreme measures are implemented.

Thank you,

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