



March 11, 2015

Senator Lee Beyer  
Chair, Committee on Business and Transportation  
900 Court St. NE, S-419  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Subject: SB 580 – Landscape Contractors Board and Continuing Education Hours**

Dear Senator Beyer,

The Regional Water Providers Consortium (Consortium) has been closely following the work of the Landscape Contracting Work Group to improve upon the state's landscape contracting licensure program and strongly supports its recommendations as outlined in SB 580 with amendments that statutorily require a minimum number of continuing education hours. The Consortium Board, made up of elected officials from our member agencies, has directed staff to prepare this letter on their behalf. The Consortium is a voluntary collaborative organization made up of 21 cities and municipal water districts from Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties and Metro. Together Consortium members provide drinking water to over 40% of Oregon's residents. The Consortium was formed in 1997 to improve the planning and management of our region's municipal water supply. Part of the Consortium's work is to implement a regional water conservation program to ensure the efficient use of our region's water sources.

The Consortium has been engaged for many years with other municipalities in supporting Continuing Education Hour requirements for licensed landscape contractors. The Consortium sees strong ties between continuing education hours, improved best practices among landscape contractors, and water conservation. Continuing education hours for licensed landscape contractors help provide an invaluable "ounce of prevention," curbing wasteful and potentially harmful practices. Improved best practices means more efficient and safer use of water.

The Consortium has made direct contributions to support continuing education hours for licensed landscape contractors by offering free continuing education classes on water efficiency and new technologies. For the past three years, the Consortium has co-sponsored water efficiency continuing education classes in Spanish and plans to continue to offer these classes.

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Environmental regulations, water policies, irrigation technology, and landscape practices continue to rapidly change. The citizens and communities of the Portland metropolitan area are better served by an up-to-date and knowledgeable base of licensed landscape contractors. The Consortium appreciates all of the hard work that went into developing SB 580 and encourages you to support amendments that retain a minimum number of continuing education hours. Please contact me at 503-823-7493 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Geisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the 'i'.

Rebecca Geisen  
Project Manager

cc: Multnomah County Senate Legislative Delegation  
Clackamas County Senate Legislative Delegation  
Washington County Senate Legislative Delegation  
Regional Water Providers Consortium Technical Committee  
Regional Water Providers Consortium Board