

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/Hispanic

OCHA Testimony in Favor of HB3304A
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on
Transportation and Economic Development
3 pm, May 19, 2015 HR F

Co-Chairs Sen. Johnson and Rep. Gomberg, and members Sen. Monroe, Sen. Hansell, Rep. Nearman, Rep. Read, Rep. Whitsett, and Rep. Witt:

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) strongly supports HB 3304A as an important connection to the industry for Latino Oregonians pursuing professional landscaping licenses.

We believe that HB 3304A adds needed pathways for many highly skilled Latino Oregonians into the landscaping industry. For those wishing to apply their extensive agricultural skills in running a licensed landscaping business, this bill provides the necessary means to access training and prove their credentials in exams or field tests. While Spanish language exams are an important addition to help Oregon capture the skills of many Latinos for the landscaping industry, field tests open the industry to many more indigenous people and others whose primary language is not Spanish but who are expert in many aspects of landscaping and planting.

We greatly appreciate the work of the sponsors of this bill to provide these pathways to a large and skilled workforce in Oregon as well as the good thinking of the Landscaping Board on existing resources for implementation.

Sincerely

Chair, Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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