



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

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Testimony to the House Committee on Business and Labor Supporting Senate Bill 580

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports SB 580, in particular the sections relating to the role landscape professionals play in installing and repairing irrigation systems, and the strengthened continuing education requirements.

As Oregonians become more aware of water scarcity and seven counties face drought conditions, there will be a growing demand for landscape contractors to install and repair efficient irrigation systems. We support including this in the list of services provided by landscape contractors because it reflects the reality on the ground.

We also support establishing minimum continuing education requirements for landscape professionals. Because these professionals play such a critical role in the sustainability of urban landscapes, it is important they stay up to date on the latest information pertinent to the profession. We have helped organize CEU trainings for landscape professionals regarding integrated pest management, the Ecobiz certification program, and the design, installation and maintenance of vegetated stormwater facilities.

We urge you to support this common sense legislation to strengthen the sustainability and professionalism of landscaping businesses.