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I am against repealing the continued education requirement for Licensed Landscape Construction Professionals (LLCPs).

Up to date education is necessary to protect agricultural commerce. New invasive pests and plants are constantly entering Oregon. One example -The Japanese Beetle is trying to establish a foothold. Landscapers are on the front lines and need to recognize this beetles' signature damage so they can help stop it. Uneducated landscapers could spread this invasive pest. A full infestation would decimate our agricultural and nursery industries.

New technology will continue to develop. One example – It used to be that no one in Oregon worried about how much water they used. Now water-saving techniques, like drip irrigation, are requested by homeowners and businesses. The continuing education requirement encourages LLCPs to take the time from their busy work schedules to learn new technology.

Education requirements protect the consumer. People assume a certain standard from a LLCP. There is so much to learn in this industry that studying and passing the exam is not enough. Yes, experience counts for something and so I understand that 8 credits over 2 years might be enough for an established LLCP. However, to help ensure that consumers hire contractors that know what they are doing, more education is necessary.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rachel Monteiro