

**Position on 2017 Legislation:
SB 474 Opposition**



March 2, 2017

To Senator Lee Beyer
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

The Southern Oregon Landscape Association (SOLA) was formed for the purposes of addressing common concerns of its membership, increasing public awareness of the value of professional landscaping and horticultural services, providing members the opportunity to increase their knowledge, meeting fellow members of the industry and benefiting through cooperative business efforts.

SOLA was founded as an organization for members of the landscape community and the community at large, to join together in the interest of public service for the betterment of the communities in which we live.

The Oregon Landscape Contractors Board (OLCB) was created by members of the landscape community, including SOLA members, to give better oversight of the landscaping profession for consumer protection for Oregon citizens. SB 474, the removal of Continuing Education (CE), eliminates the necessary continuing knowledge of the ever changing landscape industry to provide a proper landscape and functioning irrigation system.

Therefore, SOLA opposes SB 474 and any legislative efforts that reduce the purposes of the OLCB from their regulatory position and the protection for the citizens of Oregon.

We note that two years ago, members of the Oregon public and landscape industry were concerned about professionalism within the landscape community. They worked together to help draft and pass through the legislature SB 580, one provision of which reduced the required CE from the previous requirements. SOLA believes that the current CE requirement is sufficient and should not be further reduced. We ask the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation to protect the citizens of Oregon by rejecting SB 474.

Luke Acosta
SOLA Chair

Amie Batham
SOLA Secretary