



March 6, 2017

The Honorable Lee Byer, Chair
The Honorable Chuck Thomsen, Vice Chair
The Honorable Fred Girod
The Honorable Rod Monroe
The Honorable Chuck Riley
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

**RE: Committee Hearing – March 6, 2017
Letter in Opposition to SB 0474: Eliminates continuing education requirements for
landscape construction professionals**

Dear Senators Byer, Thomsen, Girod, Monroe and Riley,

The Executive Committee of the Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA Oregon) opposes SB 0474, which would eliminate continuing education requirements for landscape construction professionals. With over 200 members, ASLA Oregon leads events, training, and advocacy on a range of topics that affect the landscape architecture profession throughout the state. As a professional organization, we are allied with the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA) and we offer this written testimony against the proposed legislation.

Landscape architects rely upon the competency of licensed landscape contractors to deliver the products and projects that landscape architects design. Landscape contractors work in a technical field; they install irrigation, grade steep slopes, control erosion, manage stormwater, apply pesticides, and build outdoor structures. As landscape technologies, trends and products continually change and evolve, it is critical that landscape contractors receive education and training. Landscape contractors are hired to provide a quality work product and construct sites that are safe for public use, while protecting their own health and the health of their employees. Continuing education helps to ensure that those expectations are met.

The existing continuing education requirements for landscape contractor licensure in Oregon allow licensees to seek training and education on a broad range of technical, business, safety, and related topics essential to the practice of landscape construction and contracting. The credit hours required are reasonable and consider an individual's years of experience, with newer licensees taking more credit hours than seasoned practitioners. Credits can be secured

through a variety of providers and formats, including classroom learning, workshops and correspondence courses, to accommodate any number of schedules.

Training and continuing education requirements are common best practice amongst many licensed professions. In Oregon, both landscape architects and landscape contractors must meet requirements for continuing education. Please act to ensure that continuing education remains a standard for landscape contractors in Oregon.

If you have any questions, please contact me at info@aslaoregon.org. Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Senechal Biggs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Biggs" being particularly stylized.

Jean Senechal Biggs, ASLA

President, Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

147 SE 102nd Ave

Portland, OR 97216

cc: Bob Grover, Oregon Landscape Contractors Association