

**Position on 2017 Legislation:
HB 3337 Opposition**

April 4, 2017

To Representative Jeff Reardon
House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development



The Southern Oregon Landscape Association (SOLA) is a group of professionals within the landscaping community who Oppose HB 3337. SOLA was founded as an organization joining together in the interest of public service for the betterment of the communities in which we live. One of our common goals is increasing public awareness of the value of licensed professionals who have the knowledge to meet the needs of the community at large. HB 3337 does not meet this goal.

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 of Oregon citizens. Similar to the two year apprenticeship for electricians and plumbers, those who want to become licensed as a landscape contractor have ten different ways to meet the landscape experience requirement before they are allowed to take the test. Within HB 3337, the removal of proof of experience and testing does not demonstrate the necessary knowledge to provide a proper landscape and a functioning irrigation system, no matter the amount of money for services rendered.

Therefore, SOLA opposes HB 3337 and any legislative efforts that reduce the purposes of the OLCB from their regulatory position and the protection of the citizens of Oregon.

We also note that it was both the Oregon public and industry members concerned about professionalism of the landscape community that helped to draft and pass through the legislature the current requirements for becoming a licensed landscape contractor. We ask the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development to protect the citizens of Oregon by rejecting HB 3337.

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Luke Acosta
SOLA Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amie Batham", is located on the right side of the page.

Amie Batham
SOLA Secretary