



www.verdenw.org

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April 6, 2017

Dear Chair Reardon and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development,

We write in support of HB 3337 to create a limited landscape construction professional license. We have been operating a landscape business since 2005 and previously have advocated for expansion of access to this important license. Our efforts focused on crafting solutions that would focus on sustainable landscaping services, have real but achievable standards and provide increased income and entrepreneurial opportunities especially for workers with limited English skills and low education levels. We believe this legislation is on the right track and should expand in future sessions to address sustainability and standards.

Verde serves communities by building environmental wealth through Social Enterprise, Outreach and Advocacy. Since 2005, Verde has brought new environmental investments to Portland's neighborhoods, involved community members in the planning and building of these investments, and ensured that low-income people and people of color directly benefited from the investments.

Verde operates Verde Landscape, a licensed commercial landscaping business that provides full training and benefits for low-income workers with limited English skills and low education levels. The program's goal is to build environmental wealth in low-income communities and create access to higher paying jobs for individuals that go through the program.

We look forward to the bill's passage and are happy to provide additional thoughts on the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Hipólito".

Alan Hipólito
Executive Director