



Nick Fish, Commissioner
Michael Stuhr, Bureau Director

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 600
Portland, Oregon 97204-1926
Information: 503-823-7404
www.portlandoregon.gov/water



April 5, 2017

Representative Jeff Reardon
Chair, Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
900 Court St. NE, H-473
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: HB 3337 – Landscape contractor qualifications

Dear Representative Reardon and members of the committee,

The Portland Water Bureau opposes HB 3337, which creates a path for landscape contractors to avoid licensure requirements currently included in ORS 671.571. The Portland Water Bureau provides clean, reliable water to almost 1 million Oregonians. Nationwide, landscape irrigation is estimated to account for nearly one-third of all residential water use, totaling nearly 9 billion gallons per day. Landscape contractors are important partners in the efficient use of water resources. Minimum education and licensure requirements ensure that those managing shared water resources have the knowledge and skill to be responsible stewards.

Oregon water utilities have worked in partnership with the landscape construction industry to develop the current education and licensing requirements in ORS 671.571. Those requirements help ensure a well-educated and knowledgeable irrigation industry that can respond effectively to changing irrigation practices, policies and technology and can continue to promote improved practices through education that results in effective water efficiency. Additionally, the current requirements provide for the safe use of water by helping to preserve watershed health and effective backflow prevention. Additionally, ORS 671.571 already provides a valid option for a probationary license.

Providing a limited license based on a revenue cap erodes the value of ORS 671.570 and is a step backward in the effort to promote water efficiency. Portland Water Bureau urges your opposition to HB 3337. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Edward Campbell
Director, Resource Protection and Planning
City of Portland Water Bureau