



Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
Northwest Treeplanters and Farmerworkers United

300 Young St. / Woodburn, Oregon 97071 / (503) 982-0243 / (503) 982-1031 (FAX)
e-mail: farmerworkerunion@pcun.org website: www.pcun.org

Testimony of Ramon Ramirez, President of Piñeros y Campesinos del Noroeste, PCUN in favor of HB 3337-1.

April 6, 2017

Chair Reardon and members of the House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

On behalf of the 6,543 members of PCUN, I express our full support for HB 3337-1, the Licensing of Landscape Contractors.

PCUN is Oregon's Farmworker Union. We work to improve the working and living condition of Oregon's agricultural workers. Even though this bill doesn't cover farmworkers, many of our members do landscaping work when they are not working in farm labor.

I'm here supporting this bill because I want to see expanded opportunities for ex-farmworkers and all disadvantaged Oregonians.

This bill creates entry level opportunities for workers wanting to own their own business where the provisional license holder can bid up to \$8,000 bid limit/per client/per year while they learn the trade and save money for the test. Remember, its minorities and disadvantaged citizens who are most vulnerable to the expensive licensure requirements.

I believe this bill will remove barriers such as the 100% failure rate of Latinos taking the test which harms the community. Our goal should be to assist a new generation of landscapers get a running start. We should not be excluding people but give them a helping hand.

Thank you for your time and attention and we urge do pass recommendation!