



## **Statement in Support of HB 2015**

The Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA) supports HB 2015 which provides all Oregonians access to drive. In 2020, the State of Oregon will be required to implement new stricter standards for issuing drivers' licenses to bring the state into compliance with the federal REAL ID act. Under these new standards, the state will provide two different kinds of drivers' licenses: an "enhanced" license, which will be REAL ID-compliant and a "standard" license, similar to what Oregon drivers have now.

HB 2015 gives all Oregonians the option to upgrade to an "enhanced" REAL ID-compliant driver's license by providing additional identification and proof of citizenship but also allows Oregonians who do not want, cannot afford, or do not have access to the documents required for an "enhanced" license to keep or apply for a "standard" Oregon license – if they meet all other DMV requirements to drive. California and Washington already have this two-tier system in place, with a license available for those without enhanced documentation.

The landscape construction industry in Oregon relies on skilled workers, especially now in a time of a serious workforce shortage. In many communities, especially in rural Oregon, it's not practical or safe for people to walk for miles to get to and from work. Our businesses lose when our workers can't reliably get to work. HB 2015 will help those workers get to work safely and legally.

By requiring all drivers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, to pass a written exam and driver's test and provide proof of identity and insurance, HB 2015 makes Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone. In states with similar laws, traffic accidents and hit- and-run incidents have decreased and insured driver rates have increased significantly.

*OLCA supports the passage of HB 2015 which provides all Oregonians with the ability to drive – legally – in our state.*