

RE: SB935

Creates modified landscape construction professional license

Dear House Representatives.

I would briefly like to address the SB 935 regarding the creation of the modified landscape construction professional license, SB 935. While I serve on the Landscape Contractors Board, I am providing testimony and opinions that are solely mine as an individual and am not representing the board in any way. I would like to oppose the proposed legislation and bring to your attention why.

I have been a landscape construction professional since 1975. My career has spanned 44 years, 12 years as a landscape contractor in California, 20 years in administration managing contracts with other landscape professionals, and since 2007 have been a landscape construction professional in Oregon. I also taught landscape construction and irrigation at a community college for 8 years as adjunct faculty. All my career I have been active to professionalize the landscape industry and help those starting out in their career master the trade craft to be successful

This modified license being proposed is not necessary. The Oregon Landscape Contractors Board has already created a Modified License category. The Board did not include Irrigation in the "Allowed" services for a very good reason. Irrigation is highly technical, many current licensed contractor barely understand the principles of design, let alone allowing a novice to install even a 4 circuit system as proposed in Senator Heard's proposed SB 935.

My issue has solely to do with consumer protection. Allowing novices to design and install small irrigation systems without the technical understanding of hydraulics and engineering, which is what is involved irrigation design, will result in damage to consumers and the landscape profession as a whole.

It will also potentially result in increased claims against Landscape Construction Professionals, weakening the effectiveness of Oregon Landscape Contractors Board in managing current licensing statutes. Let the current Modified License be fully implemented and evaluated before a rash action such as is proposed in SB 935.

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