

**Position on 2019 Legislation:
SB 935 Opposition**



April 29, 2019

Dear Chair Baker:

The Southern Oregon Landscape Association (SOLA) was formed with the purposes of addressing common concerns of its membership, increasing public awareness of the value of professional landscaping and horticultural services, providing members the opportunity to increase their knowledge, benefit through cooperative business efforts, and meet fellow members of the industry. Additionally, SOLA seeks to contribute to the betterment of the communities that we live and work in through our volunteer work.

SOLA is against permitting the untested Modified Landscape contractor to provide any amount of sprinkler irrigation design and installation. Within SOLA are landscape contractors who started out doing landscape maintenance, trained, and took their test to get where they are today. Others worked for licensed landscape contractors before passing their testing to become licensed professionals. By allowing the untested Modified Landscape contractor to do more shows no regard for those who have worked hard to get where they are today.

Landscape irrigation is a science that uses one of our most precious natural resources, water. Landscape contractors are important partners in the efficient use of water resources. Education, testing and licensure requirements ensure that those managing shared water resources have the knowledge and skill to be responsible stewards. The State of Oregon should not allow an untested professional a license that validates that knowledge to an unsuspecting public consumer.

For these reasons, SOLA urges the House Committee on Business and Labor to reject SB 935.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Smitherman".

Julie Smitherman
SOLA Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amie Batham".

Amie Batham
SOLA Secretary