

From: Eric Simpson
2741 Takelma Way
Ashland, OR 97520
Simpsonj3@gmail.com
541-973-5497

RE: SB 935

Dear Legislator,

When I sat for the Landscape Contractor's Exam in 1997, it was extremely difficult and I admit I took umbrage at the time. Yet I wanted that License and, like anything I've ever had that's worthwhile in this world, I knew if I was diligent and worked hard, I could pass those tests! Twenty-three years later, I've seen why the O.L.C.B. has chosen to make testing parameters difficult and today, I don't think those tests are hard enough!

I've repaired HUNDRED'S of back flow devices and valves due to faulty installation. Valves covered with so much soil they rotted, valve wiring that caused fires, many repaired before they had the chance. Valves cemented incorrectly. Valves put in BACKWARDS! Valves sized improperly and needless debris in valve chambers. Diaphragms that stayed open while owners were on vacation and valves within too close proximity to one another, buried too deeply or too shallow and too many negligent installations to list.

THOUSANDS of gallons of water have been wasted, fires caused, MANY THOUSANDS of dollars spent, many dead plants and trees, sidewalks ruined, house foundations compromised, retaining walls failed, water wasted by sprinklers watering drives and streets, water damage to sides of homes and (even) within the home, basements ruined, etc. I could go on, yet it is OBVIOUS while dealing with this every day, how DESTRUCTIVE the lack of knowledge, negligence and apathy can be. These unethical practices are responsible for tremendous damage. And this is not the most important issue.

You need to be aware that faulty irrigation construction or repair can poison the municipal water supply! Not only can this happen, it has and innocent PEOPLE HAVE PARRISHED because of it!

And SB 935 suggests a limited license! There are absolutely NO VALID reasons to allow any law of any kind to lesson the Landscape or Irrigation Licenses of our State. It would be inhumane, dangerous, ignorant and truly foolish and unethical to do so. Would you allow a person with limited knowledge to operate on you or your family members? That is what a 'Limited License' will provide for. (And it sounds as though 935 has been initiated and championed by those who want to take the easy route and are not willing to do what it takes to protect our water, our property and, most of all, OUR LIVES!)

Please do not allow this DANGEROUS and UNETHICAL Bill to pass. Protect us all and vote NO on SB 935.

Sincerely,

Eric Simpson