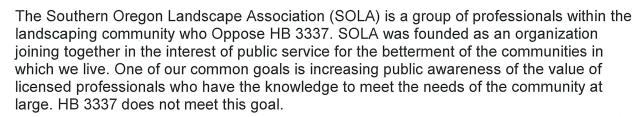
Position on 2017 Legislation: HB 3337 Opposition

April 4, 2017

To Representative Jeff Reardon
House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development



The Oregon Landscape Contractors Board (OLCB) was created by members of the landscape community, including SOLA members, to give better oversight of the landscaping profession for consumer protection of Oregon citizens. Similar to the two year apprenticeship for electricians and plumbers, those who want to become licensed as a landscape contractor have ten different ways to meet the landscape experience requirement before they are allowed to take the test. Within HB 3337, the removal of proof of experience and testing does not demonstrate the necessary knowledge to provide a proper landscape and a functioning irrigation system, no matter the amount of money for services rendered.

Therefore, SOLA opposes HB 3337 and any legislative efforts that reduce the purposes of the OLCB from their regulatory position and the protection of the citizens of Oregon.

We also note that it was both the Oregon public and industry members concerned about professionalism of the landscape community that helped to draft and pass through the legislature the current requirements for becoming a licensed landscape contractor. We ask the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development to protect the citizens of Oregon by rejecting HB 3337.

Luke Acosta SOLA Chair Amie Batham SOLA Secretary