

# PACIFIC

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## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

**I am writing in support of SB 1586, the Oregon Jobs Act.**

For too long, the Oregon legislature has enacted legislation that has negatively impacted our state's economy. The environment in Salem has been one of treating business as the problem with our state and enacted legislation that has been burdensome to our business climate and instituted taxation policy that had put our economy in one of the worst positions in the nation. It looks like legislators are beginning to see this and SB 1586 is an indication of this. I am encouraged by the broad support it is getting and want to provide my personal and organizational support for its passage.

My business founded in 2001 in Hillsboro works for many of our most successful businesses and commercial real estate owners. We have 6 offices serving the Portland / Vancouver metro area and Willamette valley including Hillsboro, Tigard, Sherwood, Parkrose, Vancouver and Salem. We employ 400 Full time landscape professionals and 100 seasonal workers. Of our full time group, 25 are graduates of Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Portland Community College, and Clackamas Community along with universities in other states. We provide Sustainable Landscape Services for our customers to maximize the environmental value to the properties we maintain while creating functional attractive green spaces throughout the region.

Many of our customers are now struggling from the economic malaise that our state is in during an otherwise robust economic climate. If you look at the states that have the best economic conditions and employment growth, you will see those with more "business friendly" taxation and regulation policies. Should businesses pay their "fair share" and be held to high standards of operation, YES. But that can occur while maintaining an environment that supports and promotes business and employment growth. We should take the lead of the current most economically vibrant states including Florida, Texas, Utah, Arizona, Georgia, and Ohio. These states are attracting businesses and people to move there for great business policies and employment opportunities. Oregon is on the bottom of these lists due to our current taxation and regulatory policies.

**SB 1586, the Oregon Jobs Act is a good start and I hope the legislators pass it as the beginning of creating a better business climate that will provide a better employment and living environment for our residents.**

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