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April 1, 2009

The Honorable Nicholas P. Scutari
Senator, Legislative District 22
1514 E. Saint Georges Avenue, 2nd Floor
Linden, NJ 07036

Reference: S 2302

Dear Senator Scutari:

I am writing to you as a voting distributor of equipment and supplies used by landscape contractors in regards to S-2302, a proposed bill for the licensing of landscape contractors in New Jersey. After learning of this bill, being educated as to its content, and carefully reviewing this bill, we oppose Bill S-2302 in its present form and ask that this bill be withdrawn.

Although licensing may help to designate professionals in the state, it seems that this bill is simply a duplication of licenses and certifications already in effect. Furthermore, being named a professional on paper does not guarantee that a business and its employees will act as professionals. Therefore, we cannot see how this bill will protect the consumer in any way. Finally, there are many issues within S-2302 that will not only cause financial stress to current landscaping firms, but will exclude most from joining the industry. In these times of economic hardship, how can it be justified to limit financial progress and job creation? If landscapers cannot work profitably they certainly will not buy from us or anyone else. Please consider the ripple effect this bill will cause. It is not just about landscapers.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Hibler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert B. Hibler
Director of Marketing