

February 13, 2009

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

**Reference: S 2302**

Dear Senator Scutari:

The New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association (NJLCA), on behalf of over 500 member companies, writes to you in regards to our previous letter concerning proposed Bill S-2302, to license landscape contractors in the State of New Jersey. In December 2008, we wrote to you to request you hold this bill until we were able to provide you with industry feedback to the bill.

Our members are directly affected by this bill, and the response to our surveys and meetings regarding its content has been overwhelming. **Regrettably, after receiving feedback from the entire industry, including our members, we remain against Bill S-2302 in its present form.** Results of a survey mailed to 4,287 landscape companies in NJ, begun in October 2008 and completed on January 31, 2009, showed that of the respondents, 78.32% are against the bill in its present form, 15.93% are undecided, and only 5.75% are in favor of this bill. In addition to the survey, in January 2009, we held four meetings open to all landscape contractors in New Jersey, where we were able to educate our membership about the history and content of the bill and receive their feedback. Of those in attendance, we learned that 99.98% are against the bill in its present form and .02% are in favor of it. Based on this compiled data, NJLCA cannot endorse Bill S-2302 and asks this bill be withdrawn.

From these meetings and our survey responses, we have constructed a preliminary list (attached) of some of the issues we, and the landscape contractors of New Jersey, have with this bill. We wanted to give you our feedback in a timely manner, and therefore, will provide you with a more detailed assessment in the near future.

In addition to NJLCA, other longstanding trade and professional associations, after being informed of the contents of the bill, have a number of concerns with this bill and oppose it as currently written.

**Senator, the NJLCA respectfully asks that you listen to your constituency and requests that Bill S-2302 be withdrawn. Should any committee hearings be held in regards to this bill, we request that you notify us, and that we be given the opportunity to testify, both orally and written at these meetings. Furthermore, we ask that the committee hearings be made public so landscape contractors throughout the state have an opportunity to attend.**

Respectfully,



New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association  
Brian Phiefer Chairman Legislative Committee