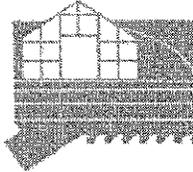


**Connecticut
Florists
Association**



**CONNECTICUT
GREENHOUSE
GROWERS
ASSOCIATION**



**Connecticut
Nursery &
Landscape
Association**

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Statement of
Bob Heffernan
Executive Director
Connecticut Green Industries Council
before the
General Law Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
on HB 5306 • New License for Landscapers

March 6, 2012

We ask the Committee to **hold** consideration of this bill until the 2013 legislative session.

CNLA has spent two years studying the possibility of a new license for landscapers in our state, and our deliberations will continue this year. We have researched other models for such a license. We are in the process of consulting with allied trade groups and with the state commissioners who might be responsible to implement such a license if enacted.

We believe there will be broad support for such a license, but only if it is done right with the proper structure, authority, enforcement, and governance. We will also want to build in mechanisms that call for continual training and education.

Today, most Connecticut landscapers are already “licensed” under the home improvement contractor statute administered by the Department of Consumer Protection. However that current process is more a registration for complaints than a license that compels excellence and high standards—which we are striving to achieve.