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Re: Raised Bill no. 238
An Act Establishing a Landscape Contractor License

February 26, 2014

To whom it may concern,

We are the Connecticut Pool and Spa Association (CONSPA) and represent the swimming pool service and construction industry in the State of Connecticut. On Monday 2/24/14 we learned of your intentions to obtain a Landscaper Contractors License.

CONSPA has supported and assisted in the development of its own trade licenses within the state of CT, including recent clarification of the service license we helped develop that was issued in 1998, and most recently the establishment of a Pool Builder's license.

In reading your proposed Bill, No. 238, we see several areas where the Landscape Contractor License overlaps with the Pool Builder's License. I would like to address specifically the wording below in lines 5 and 8-10 from the first paragraph of the bill:

5. design, grade, prepare, plant, repair or maintain gardens, lawns,
8. decorative treatment or arrangement (2) construct or install garden
9. pools, fountains, incidental retaining walls, fences, walks
10. and drainage, or (3) engage in incidental construction in connection of a landscaping project

Many of our members are pool builders who not only construct pools but install walkways, retaining walls and fencing as part of a pool project. We feel this portion of the bill- as written- will impact our industry negatively and may restrict our trade's growth as it adds additional layers of licensure requirements that seem to overlap our existing license; and it will add costs to an already heavily regulated business.

Consumers in our business often require Contractors who are turnkey operations in regards to the design and hardscapes of a project. We plan to accept your invitation to express our concerns at the public hearing this Friday, February 28.

Our intention is to put our concerns on the record as you proceed with this license process. Having been through the development of two licenses, and being experienced in working directly with the landscaping industry, we would like to offer our experience and assistances in any way possible to help achieve a fair and well- written license law.

Best regards,
Bob Russell



President - Connecticut Spa and Pool Association