

Statement of David Taddei  
Senate Bill 238  
Environment Committee  
February 28, 2014

Sen. Meyer, Rep. Gentile and members of the committee:

My name is David Taddei. I reside in Hamden where I have had a small landscaping company for 29 years. I currently hold licenses in “Ornamental and Turf,” “Arboriculture,” and other industry-related certifications. I am also the immediate past president of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association.

A number of us are before you today in support of Senate Bill 238, *An Act Establishing a Landscape Contractor License*.

Very simply, our profession’s members currently register as “Home Improvement Contractors” within the Department of Consumer Protection by statute. That simply does not describe our profession at all.

SB 238 provides that a new license would take the place of this requirement. The current home improvement requirement does nothing to create high standards for landscapers and give the profession respect equal to electricians, arborists, etc., who have their own individual, industry-specific license.

A state board of landscapers would be created to assist the commissioner of the Department of Energy and the Environment in implementing the law.

The Commissioner would have legal responsibility to issue regulations for the details of the license.

Landscapers would be required to carry a sufficient amount of liability insurance, and display their license number wherever they go. DEEP would have the power to suspend a license for bad business practices.

Firms that can prove they have been in business for three years already would be “grandfathered” and could obtain a license without taking an exam.

The bill has been designed so that the fees paid by landscapers would cover any cost to the state. We think there are about 1,200 companies that would apply for a license.

The landscape licensure bill is a small step to making the industry sector function more efficiently and transparently, especially for consumers. They will be able to see that the firm they are considering is duly licensed for doing the specific landscaping tasks they request.

Thank you.