

December 26, 2006

Mr. Toby Rodgers, President  
WA Society of Professional Soil Scientists (WSPSS)  
PO Box 881  
Newman Lake, WA 99025

Dear Mr. Rodgers:

WOSSA is a 400 plus member organization with a 16 year history of organization, support and work in the Onsite industry in the State of Washington. WOSSA has been active in participation and support of the development and implementation of the Onsite Wastewater Designers Licensing Program with the Department of Licensing in WA.

The membership of WOSSA includes individuals from private sector, various onsite industry segments, academia, government and the manufacturing community. In particular, our licensed designers under the DOL call out soils as it applies to treatment of wastewater. As soil scientists enter the private sector in fields related to environmental protection and growth management development issues, WOSSA supports this legislative initiative for soil scientists to become recognized and managed through a licensing program at the state level. As with the discussion and questions with the WSPSS representative who participated in our October board meeting, we see the value of licensing and certification programs to establish competency levels, ongoing education requirements and the capability for management of this body by following an agreed set of standards established by the licensing body and the people under their charge.

State government responsibility is to protect the public interests as it regards the environment and standards of professional licensure for certain types of work that come under professionally established practice. Currently, soil scientists work with land owners, developers and others on environmentally related issues that may impact public health, safety and welfare and they may work with other licensed professionals. The need to work under identified and adopted standards of practice and implementation of them through a managed license program on a state level is clear.

The Washington Onsite Sewage Association (WOSSA) would like to indicate its support and encourage the State of Washington to pass state level licensing legislation for Soil Scientists.

Sincerely,

Peter Lombardi  
President  
Washington Onsite Sewage Association