

# AIA Oregon

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects



TO: House Business & Labor Committee  
FROM: Leonard Lodder, AIA Oregon President  
RE: Support for HB 2268  
DATE: February 6, 2013

Chair Doherty and members of the committee, my name is Leonard Lodder; I am a Salem architect and the current President of the American Institute of Architects Oregon. I am here today urging your support of HB 2268 – an update of architectural laws in Oregon.

The first and foremost point I want to impart to you is about the process. In the fall of 2011, Jim Denno, the Executive Director of the Oregon Board of Architect Examiners sent to AIA the concept that is now HB 2268. Subsequent to him sharing the draft with us, he and OBAE Board members and staff met with the AIA legislative committee multiple times to discuss the changes envisioned. I want to applaud your regulatory board for actively engaging stakeholders. We are appreciative of the opportunity to comment and to help edit the content of the draft. I cannot stress enough how impressed we are with this effort by the Board to collaborate on ways to enhance the profession and better protect the public.

As to the issues addressed in the bill, we consider most to be necessary updates to terminology and license renewal cycles leading to consistency in statutes, rules and real life applications.

AIA members did have some initial concerns with regard to the definition of “firm”, the distinction between “plans” and “drawings”, the mixing of the term “registration” and “license”, and the act of “supervising” vs. “observing” in the definition of the “practice of architecture.” Every single one of these issues were addressed by the group and settled on in a fair way that protects the public while allowing the architect to best do their work.

You should also know that AIA Oregon asked the Board of Architect Examiner to make an additional change in this bill with regard to exemptions based on occupancy use rather than size. While this issue is not included here as it rose to the level of a policy change rather than a housekeeping one, I want you to recognize that the OBAE worked on the language with us and met with the Building Codes Division along with us for consideration on public impact of such a change.

Your Board is doing good work. This bill reflects that as they make logical and necessary updates and we urge your support.

Leonard Lodder, AIA, LEED AP