

February 3, 2017

**TO: House Committee On Economic Development and Trade**

Chair, Representative Ann Lininger  
Vice-Chair, Representative Pam Marsh  
Vice-Chair, Representative David Brock Smith

**CC: Members of the House Committee On Economic Development and Trade**

Representative Brian Clem  
Representative David Gomberg  
Representative Ken Helm  
Representative Andy Olson  
Representative Bill Post  
Representative E. Werner Reschke

**FROM:**

**RE: HB 2153 Letter of Support**

Dear Representatives Ann Lininger, Pam Marsh, and David Brock Smith,

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designer and the Interior Design Collaborative of Oregon, which represents several hundred design professionals from both ASID (and IIDA), and has been active in the State of Oregon for over 12 years, I am testifying in support of House Bill 2153.

This legislation will allow qualified interior designers to practice commercial interior design. As “registered design professionals” this will allow them full access to a currently restricted scope of work, it will provide graduating students seeking employment to have broader job opportunities, it will help small business owners expand their business, and will give interior design professionals the necessary credentials to ensure the proper trust between the client and business owners.

House Bill 2153 will not only create a long term solution for job growth in the built environment in the State of Oregon, but it will define a scope of work that will align the state with the Federal model of the Government Services Administration (GSA) - which allows interior designers that meet the minimum competency levels to work in buildings covered by the National Fire Protection Agency, the International Code Council, the U.S. Access Board, and the Americans with Disabilities Act to bid on federal projects.

Specifically, this legislation will;

- **Expand Small Businesses:** This bill would effectively allow over 500 practicing interior design professionals to reduce the cost of design to the government and expand the scope of their businesses. These individuals will be able to increase their client base and create a competitive design market to an already dynamic economy.
- **Ensure Consumer Protection:** Interior design professionals are well qualified to bid on state contracts due to the same certification requirements that provide a defense against fraud and abuse. Further, allowing interior designers to participate in the design selection process will maintain needed consumer safeguards; such as abiding by all fire and safety code regulations.
- **Enhance Student's Future:** Oregon's public and private universities, such as the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, George Fox, Marylhurst University, and The Art Institute of Portland issue bachelor's degrees while the University of Oregon offers a master's program. These new professionals seeking employment rely on the ability to practice the profession through opportunities provided by training in the classroom and certification upon graduation. Permitting interior designers to be

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involved in the design selection process will broaden opportunities for students enrolled in the interior design programs throughout Oregon.

- Increase State Revenue: Passage of this bill will allow interior designers to establish small businesses that offer a full scope of services, hire new workers, provide student internships, increase payrolls, and contribute to the tax base all while reducing costs to the state of Oregon. Overall, the interior design profession in Oregon has created a robust design industry that employs thousands of Oregon residents and currently contributes over \$150 million to the economy annually.

Finally, on behalf of the ASID Oregon Chapter and IDC-Oregon, we urge you to pass this bill in order to expand recognition of the profession, unbind the currently restricted scope of work, allow all qualified professionals to be a part of the full design bid selection process, safeguard consumers, protect our students' future, increase the state's revenue, and assist small business owners to grow. Oregon would join the 29 other states across the country that currently have Interior Design Laws.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexis C Melnicki". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Alexis Melnicki, Allied ASID

ASID Oregon Chapter President  
IDC-Oregon Public Representative