



February 8, 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: Alicia Snyder-Carlson, IDC-Oregon Co-chair

Sustainability Consulting Manager, Green Building Services

RE: HB 2153 Letter of Support

(slide 1)

Good morning Legislators. Thank you for having us here today.

My name is Alicia Snyder-Carlson and I am here today on behalf of IDC-Oregon to testify in support of HB 2153. I am an interior designer by education and a practicing green building consultant. I am currently employed as the Sustainability Consulting Manager at Green Building Services in Portland, OR.

IDC-Oregon is a collaborative of current and future design professionals and allies, seeking legislation for commercial interior designers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and ensure the ability of trained design professionals to practice to the fullest extent of their capabilities.

(slide 2)

Beyond the individual interior designers who support our efforts as well as our respected professional organizations ASID and IIDA, I want to let you know that we are also supported by industry vendors, design educators, architecture and design firms, and the green building industry.

(slide 3)

Before I jump into a few reasons for regulation, I want to share some basic information about commercial interior design and data on Oregon's Interior Design Profession. Starting here, this diagram is illustrating the typical scope of work an interior designer completes on a project. As you can see we've shown that an architect typically designs the core and shell of the building and in most cases an interior designer completes the interior details.



These spaces, in order to be safe for public occupancy, must be designed to meet State Building Codes, Fire and Life Safety Requirements, Energy Codes, and ADA Accessibility Standards, as well as environmental considerations such as air-quality, ergonomics, non-toxic materials, and user functions and comfort.

The next few slides we'll move through quickly, as I highlight some of the items I just mentioned.

(slide 4)

To further illustration these point, the drawing you see now was created by an NCIDQ certified interior designer to show that building, accessibility, as well as fire and life safety codes are being met for the occupancy type.

The red arrows are pointing to a couple different items. The top three I want to point out as the egress and exit requirements of the building code. The top two arrows identify that the path of travel to an exit and showing that it meets the code requirements of maximum travel distance an occupancy must travel in case of an emergency. The third arrow identifies that the number of exit doors complies with the building code.

Additionally, in the legend, the red box is showing the path of travel that is illuminated by the emergency lighting as well as the placement of exit signs so that all occupants have a line of site to those signs.

(slide 5)

The last item I want to point out here are the ada requirements for wheel chair accessibility. There are several other plans that interior designers prepare including, interior demising walls, floor plans, lighting and ceiling plans, as well as construction details among others.

(slide 6)

Switching gears a little, we have some data here that shows the demographics of Oregon's Interior Design profession. This is snap shot from IIDA Oregon's state of the Industry survey which shows the majority of interior designers working in Oregon are women AND 3 out of every 4 projects included an interior designer on the team. The types of projects Interior Designers are working on include: corporate offices, healthcare, higher education, retail and multi-family housing among others.

(slide 7)

Here are my top four reasons to license commercial interior designers, which I'd like to briefly elaborate on further.

(slide 8)

1. Opportunity: Removes Barriers to Practice
 - Current regulation (Section 107.1 of the 2010 OSSC) prevents qualified interior designers from bidding on projects that require a "registered" design professional. This bill would increase opportunities for interior designers by



establishing them as “registered” design professionals

- For women designers, this regulation provides the opportunity to have a controlling interest in firms and a broader reach in the market.

(slide 9)

2. Economic Growth: Small & Women Owned Businesses

- Many interior designers operate as small businesses and registration allows them to practice to the fullest extent of their education and experience by opening the door to submit plans independent of another design professional.
- This bill will also allow a greater number of businesses to compete for commercial design work in Oregon by enabling designers to operate without paying additional fees to have their work “approved.”

(slide 10)

3. Accountability: Consumer Choice & Protection

- Interior design is the only unregulated profession in the design and construction industry in Oregon but arguably one of the biggest professions impacting the health and safety of the public.
- Commercial interior designers are often responsible for the interior environments of the public spaces and therefore responsible for meeting building and accessibility codes, for which they are trained to do.
- This bill ensures Oregon citizens can find those qualified designers competent in local, state and federal building codes.

(slide 11)

4. Sustainable Future: Healthy spaces for all Oregonians

- Americans spend 90% of their time indoors yet our indoor air quality is often worse than the outdoor air quality due to toxic materials off-gassing inside our buildings.
- An interior designers body of knowledge regarding safe and healthy building systems, components, and finishes also encompasses environmental sustainability of these same systems and materials.

(slide 12)

In support of our bill, I have some data from the 2016 Bureau of Labor Statistics has been analyzed by the International Interior Design Association and found that a healthy interior design industry has benefits that extend beyond the designer.

(slide 13)

For example, the direct Oregon Impact constitutes just over 3,000 jobs, of which about 1,300 of those jobs are related to Interior design occupations in other industries and about 1,800 jobs related Interior design industry employment.

Additionally, the total impact of tax revenues from the interior design sector accounted for \$19.1 million dollars. Yet interior designers are the only professionals on a construction design teams that are not allowed, or required, to be registered.



(slide 13)

There could be a minimum of 299 Commercial Interior Design businesses competing for jobs on equal footing with other registered design professionals, as that is the number of Oregon interior designers who hold a certificate from the National Council for Interior Design Qualifications.

(slide 14)

So, why now? Interior design is a flourishing profession in Oregon and across the country. Many of the States with the strongest commercial interior design industry such as CA, TX, FL, NY are also states that have already enacted interior design legislation. These States have found that regulation of the industry has:

1. Increased interior design jobs
2. Created healthy competition for interior design contracts benefitting both businesses and consumers
3. Increased the numbers of women owned businesses
4. Generated income for the state
5. Created better accountability for consumer protection in public spaces

*IIDA Statistics Map of U.S.

(slide 15)

Registration will....

(slide 16)

Registration will not...

(slide 17)

Questions?

(slide 18-19)

Resources

(slide 20)

IDC-Oregon contact information.

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