



AMY VAIL DESIGN

February, 7th, 2016

**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:**

Amy Vail, Owner/Principal Designer

Amy Vail Design

**RE: HB 2153 Letter of Support**

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

I support HB2153 creating a voluntary Commercial Interior Design Registry in the State of Oregon.

For many years, I practiced as an interior decorator. I chose paint, furniture and decor items for many happy clients and was proud of my work. About 6 years ago, I was awarded a large remodeling project that involved changing the layout of the space and required professional drawings to be permitted and used for construction. I quickly realized that I didn't have the knowledge or necessary education to complete the project without help. This experience led me to pursue a Master's degree in Interior Design. I chose a school ranked in the top 5 in the country and worked harder than I ever had in undergraduate school. I studied local, state and federal building codes,

sustainable design, numerous digital drawing programs, and 3D rendering, in addition to history and theory. All of my instructors were licensed architects, one of whom studied under the renowned post-modernist Charles Moore. I graduated top of my class and moved back to Oregon to start my own minority-owned business. I plan to practice mainly residential design; however, I fully support this bill. Why?

I support HB2153 because if this bill passes, my education will allow me to take the test and register as a commercial interior designer. This designation will enable me to bid on projects that require a "registered" professional, giving my small business more opportunities. My registration will tell my potential clients and the public that I have a certain level of expertise. Not all of my clients will require a registered commercial designer's skills, but shouldn't they have the opportunity to make that choice?

Interior designers are often confused with interior decorators. I've been both and I am very clear on the differences. My support of this legislation is not an attempt to downgrade my former occupation or anyone providing interior decorating services. However, I now have skills and knowledge that allow me, and others who have been professionally educated in this field, to design built environments that directly affect the health, safety, comfort and welfare of the public. I can now provide services, such as space planning, anthropomorphic design, material selection and lighting design. These services all require detailed knowledge of specific safety and access code requirements at the local, state and federal level. Oregonians deserve to have the opportunity to choose the type and level of design expertise they need for their project; Interior designers deserve the opportunity to work at the level their professional educations allow. Oregon deserves the highest standards possible.

Sincerely,

Amy Vail

M.A. Interior Design | Allied ASID | LEED Green Associate