



February 7, 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: Bethanne Mikkelsen

RE: HB 2153 Letter of Support

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

My name is Bethanne Mikkelsen and I am an associate interior designer at Ankrom Moisan Architects. I have over 10 years of experience in commercial Interior Design working on projects including healthcare, corporate tenant improvement and multi-family housing projects. I have graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Interior Design from a CIDA accredited program and I have successfully passed the National Certification Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) exam and I am a LEED Accredited professional. Currently, I am Vice President of Advocacy on the IIDA board and I am the co-Chair of IDC Oregon.

I am writing you today in support of HB 2153. There is a strong misconception about what commercial Interior Designers do. When people ask me what I do, the common response is "That must be so fun". Yes, it is fun but there is so much more to what we do than the public realizes. Almost every day, I meet with corporate clients who are looking to expand their space or move into a different space. I am tasked with creating code compliant space plans to meet the client's needs. Once the space plans are approved, I then prepare construction documents to submit for permit. These documents include egress plans, demolition plans, floor plans, reflected ceiling plans, finish plans, elevations and details. Once I have completed preparing the construction document set, I must find an architect to stamp the drawings before I submit for permit because Interior Designers are not recognized as a "registered design professional". This requires the client to pay an extra fee to have someone take a second look at the drawings. As a Commercial Interior Designer, I have been trained to do this work. I believe a voluntary Interior Design registry will allow me to practice to the fullest extent of my abilities and it will allow our clients to see commercial Interior Designers as the qualified professionals we are. Creating a voluntary Interior Design registry will help the public understand the difference between interior decorating and commercial Interior Design.

Commercial Interior Designers are trained to follow life-safety, fire, and building codes and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) specifications, as well as best practices for space planning,

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sustainability and green building practices, and ergonomics. Voluntary certification of commercial Interior Designers removes unnecessary barriers to practice, promotes sustainable practices, it will define an Interior Designer as a registered design professional, it will give consumers an outlet to find qualified professionals, and it will keep Oregonians in public buildings safe. A voluntary certification will NOT prevent anyone from providing Interior Design services as they do today; it does NOT prevent anyone from calling themselves an “Interior Designer;” and it does NOT limit entry into the field.

Commercial Interior Designers are qualified professionals that have the education and experience to submit their own work for permits which opens competition for consumers and clients.

I am asking you today for your support of HB2153. We not only owe it to consumers, but we owe it to our future Interior Designers. We have several Universities in Oregon with Interior Design programs. Our students deserve to know that when they graduate they are have an equal opportunity at the table with other registered design professionals.

Bethanne Mikkelsen
NCIDQ Certificate #29445 / LEED AP ID+C
ASSOCIATE / INTERIOR DESIGNER