

**Feb 7, 17, 10:25**

**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: Chris Lewis**

**RE: HB 2153 Letter of Support**

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

I am writing you in support of HB2153 to institute a voluntary Commercial Interior Design Registry in the State of Oregon.

I have been involved in the profession of architecture in the State of Oregon since 1998 and have had many opportunities to work alongside Interior Designers. I am also the American Institute of Architect's State of Oregon License Advisor so I am familiar with the rules and regulations governing the practice of Architecture. I believe that the public health, safety and welfare could only be improved by creating a registry of Commercial Interior Designers.

The safety of the public is the highest responsibility of design professionals. By creating a registry of Commercial Interior Designers it creates an easy way to regulate and educate professionals who have demonstrated an equal commitment to public safety. These aren't decorators, these are professionals who have been trained in space planning, accessibility, building codes, and material selection. It would benefit the state and the public to have a registry of such professionals to ensure pertinent codes and regulations are being communicated and enforced.

With the varied scale and scope of Commercial Interiors projects it is often required for small practitioners to partner with a "Registered Design Professional" to complete the permitting process. This puts an undue strain on small businesses that are often women or minority owned. By creating a registry and clear standards for inclusion on that registry it would allow the Commercial Interior Design professional the credentials necessary to perform their duties without requiring additional over site or expenses.

I appreciate your time on this matter, and I look forward to working with my newly Registered Commercial Interior Designer colleagues in the future.

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