



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: GBD/BOMA Oregon**

Michelle Schulz – GBD Architects  
Susan Steward – BOMA Oregon

**RE: HB 2153 Letter of Support**

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

On behalf of BOMA Oregon, we would like to write to you expressing our support for HB 2153 introducing a voluntary registration for the commercial interior designers of Oregon. BOMA is the leading commercial real estate organization and we work very closely with our interior design community. It is important that our building owners have the ability to hire qualified commercial interior designers and have a registry to verify.

It is important to our organization that this registry is voluntary; we do not want this registry to affect small business owners negatively. We believe that by making the registry voluntary, it validates interior designers as design professionals without policing the profession.

By establishing a voluntary registration, we believe this bill will raise the safety and health of the spaces designed in the future. Commercial interior designers have the knowledge and background to analyze code, design with accessible and inclusionary standards and meet egress requirements. Their backgrounds also include an understanding of sustainable practices that ensure safer and healthier interiors in Oregon.

Please join us in support of HB 2153 and the recognition of commercial interior designers as design professionals.

Sincerely,

Michelle Schulz, AIA  
Principal | GBD Architects  
Board Member | BOMA Oregon