



February 3, 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: Sherri Leisinger, Interior Designer, NCIDQ

RE: HB 2153 Letter of Support

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

I know you are dealing with many bills and issues concerning Oregon this session. However I would like to bring to your attention HB2153 which would create a voluntary Commercial Interior Design Registry for commercial interior designers. I support this bill because there needs to be a means to identify to the public, interior designers who have the education and experience needed to work on public buildings.

Over the last 20 years of my 32 years as a commercial interior designer, I have seen an increase in building code requirements, fire codes, and the initiation and revision of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). This means the clients who are hiring an interior designer for public or multifamily dwellings need a means to determine which designers have the knowledge about codes and laws so as to protect their end users' health, safety and welfare. This registry would give consumers a means to determine qualified professionals for commercial buildings. It would indicate who has the minimum education and experience requirements for commercial interior design as a means to determine if the individual has the background to practice in this type of interior design.

One area I have witnessed is the hiring of individuals who lack knowledge in codes, ADA requirements, etc. is retirement facilities. I have been hired by many of these facilities in the last few years to rectify the outcome of incorrect selections or design. As our elder population increases, this is worrisome as it puts more and more people at risk. Also when needed, space planning of rooms or furniture layouts that would accommodate the occupants who have physical handicaps should be done by interior designers who have knowledge of space planning and ADA requirements. The designation of "Register Design Professional" would identify who has the minimum standards of competency in these facilities as well as other types of public buildings.

I very much support this bill as a long time practitioner in the field of commercial interior design. This bill would give the public a way to determine which individuals practicing interior design in the public sector have the background and knowledge of codes and laws that are now in place to protect the public's safety. Thank you for your consideration on House Bill 2153.