

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Griffin Plush](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [representative.zack.fields@akleg.gov](mailto:representative.zack.fields@akleg.gov); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Roger Holland](#)  
**Subject:** HB61 - No Go - for the betterment of Public Safety  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 3:08:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Hello House Representatives and Senator,

I am writing to you today in response to learning about HB61.

I received a notice about HB 61 coming up from the AIA (American Institute of Architects) of which I am a member. As soon as I started reading about HB61 I could do nothing but cringe.

The idea that interior designers would hold the same of "PROFESSIONALISM" as Architect, as Professional Engineers, and Surveyors is absurd. All of the aforementioned have rigorous training with schooling, intern programs, and prerequisites to become eligible to even apply for testing for licensure. The work that these produce, will actually affect public safety.

To put interior designers at the same level is a considerable disservice to actual licensed professionals who have done all that it takes to be where they are.

**I want to make sure, my standpoint is clear as I believe there are several positions make it unique to other input that you may receive.**

- 1. I am not a licensed professional to date. I have been working on becoming one for almost 15 years. It took me that long to even become eligible to apply for eligibility for the ARE's (Architect Registration Exams). I have made a career of doing everything I can without having finished the licensure process. I firmly recognize the value of having a professional license and the value that it brings to projects and the public.**
- 2. A few years ago, I had 3 men try to break into my home. I had my wife and daughter asleep in my home. I held them off at gunpoint till they left, and it took the APD over 3 hours to finally arrive with me making the initial 911 phone call and 2 follow up calls to get them to show up. I was told per SB 91 that even if I had detained those men myself, that they cops would have most likely let them go per SB91 and arrested me and taken me to jail. This outraged me enough to publicly testify when a public review was being held. I say all that to say this, "HB 61 is so blatantly misguided, that it not only would endanger public safety by licensing "Interior designers", it would lessen/ damage the value of Licensed Professionals as stated are "Architects, PE's – Professional Engineers" and Surveyors."**
- 3. I started my drafting business in 2004 in California. One of my 1<sup>st</sup> clients was an accomplished interior designer who was recently published in the Architect Record for a \$5 Million home of actor Bryan Cranston. I mention this to say "I Fired him as a client after his 3<sup>rd</sup> project." Simple things like transitions from various spaces with minimal dimensions,**

Structural elements not taken into consideration (such as a post or beam) and other disturbing items left out of consideration. He is also an accomplished interior designer who has been an adjunct professor for colleges here in Alaska.

HB61. I can not see the upside of it as architects already hold the responsibility and required insurances for this scope of work.

Please let me know if there are any further developments on this bill or if you have any questions. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Grant Rebne, AIA Assoc, LEED GA  
Anchorage, AK 99504

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**\*\*\*Please note the new email address\*\*\***

**From:** [Pakak Boerner](#)  
**To:** [Joey Bosworth](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 61- Opposition Letter  
**Date:** Friday, April 16, 2021 10:07:26 AM

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**From:** Ramona Schimscheimer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 8:24 AM  
**To:** Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. James Kaufman <Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 61- Opposition Letter

Rep. Zack Fields & Rep. Ivy Spohnholz  
Co-Chairs: House Labor and Commerce Committee  
email: [Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov)  
[Representative.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov)

**Reference: HB 61**

Dear Representatives Fields and Spohnholz:

I am writing in opposition to HB61, a proposed statute related to establishing regulations and licensing for commercial interior designers.

Like many Alaskan members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), I am opposed to HB61 because it is unnecessary, redundant, and most importantly, may negatively affect public health, safety, and welfare for the following reasons:

1. The definition of interior design is too far-reaching, and it creates an overlap of services rendered by State Licensed Architects whose rigorous education, training, testing and experience provides reliable and proven protection for the health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans, and
2. It will create confusion for the public and contractors with regards to liability and responsibility, also creating unnecessary costs to the State for enforcement, and
3. It injects potentially unqualified persons into a structured regulatory framework wherein the State will risk critical health and safety issues to be determined by unqualified persons.

I have a great deal of respect for the work of interior designers who are often part of project teams that are led by Architects. But also note that there are many interior designers in Alaska who currently work independently, as small businesses, without infringing on health, safety, and welfare issues. They currently use their skills in the marketplace and do not need to be mandated to obtain a license. This is an unnecessary burden to existing interior designers, and to the State of Alaska.

Out of respect for your time and that of the Committee, I have prepared this written testimony in-lieu of speaking at Monday's hearing, but ask that my testimony please be included in the record. I have copied my District Representative Mr. James Kaufman on this email.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Ramona Schimscheimer, AIA  
Principal Architect ASRC Energy Services



Copy: District 28 Representative Mr. James Kaufman

**From:** [Pakak Boerner](#)  
**To:** [Joey Bosworth](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 61 opposition  
**Date:** Friday, April 16, 2021 10:07:14 AM

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 7:59 AM  
**To:** Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 61 opposition

Hello,

I am Melissa Morse, AIA, (American Institute of Architects) a Spenard resident and active community member. I also work in 900W 5th Avenue (the flash cube.) I have served on the AIA board for many years and was president in 2017. In the last 5 years I have become very familiar with the Interior Design licensure agenda.

I am firmly opposed to HB61 due to it being unnecessary and most importantly, may negatively affect public health, safety, and wellness by weakening protective requirements for stamping construction documents. Additionally, the burden of the government to license 2 dozen or so professionals and not provide an additional protection to the population is a waste of resources.

As an architect, I have an incredible respect for interior designers and their contributions to our field and our ability to collaborate and make better buildings. However, HB61 goes a step too far by granting interior designers the authority to stamp construction documents and manage construction as an agent of the owner – an authority that they are not trained for. This should be reserved for engineers and architects, whose more rigorous training, testing, and experience provide the most protection for the Alaskan public's health, safety, and welfare.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is a 95,000 member organization whose Alaska Chapter has hundreds of members, the majority of which also oppose HB61. Our Alaska chapter volunteers have been in the research phase and will continue to help to provide information as to what other states are doing on this topic and where the detriment to the public lies.

I will try to attend Monday's hearing but in case I am unable please accept this as my written testimony and include it in the record. I ask that this bill not leave the L&C committee. If I may be of any help please ask questions and I will do my best to get you full answers.

Sincerely,

-Melissa Morse, AIA

**From:** [Pakak Boerner](#)  
**To:** [Joey Bosworth](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 61, licensing of commercial interior designers OPPOSITION  
**Date:** Friday, April 16, 2021 10:05:59 AM

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Rep. Thomas McKay <Rep.Thomas.McKay@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 61, licensing of commercial interior designers OPPOSITION

Dear Representative McKay, Representative Spohnholz and Representative Fields,

My name is Michelle Klouda and I am a licensed and practicing Architect in the State of Alaska. I live in District 24 and I am an owner of an Architectural firm that resides downtown at 645 G Street, Suite 400. I would like to state my opposition to HB 61.

As an architect, I have an incredible respect for interior designers and their contributions to our field. However, I feel that HB61 goes a step too far by granting interior designers the authority to stamp construction documents – an authority that I feel should be reserved for architects, whose more rigorous training, testing, and experience provide the most protection for the Alaskan’s public health, safety, and welfare.

The top two reasons for my opposition to HB 61 are as follows:

1. Interior designers do not possess comparable qualifications to architects in terms of public health, safety and welfare (HSW). They receive less than half the training in building codes and safety regulations as architects.

*There are considerable differences in registration requirements for interior designers compared to architects. To become a licensed architect state laws have established minimum education, experience, and examinations far beyond that of a commercial interior designer. At least 22% of Architectural Registration Exams are related to building code issues which are required to pass the exams.*

*Interior Designer’s certification criteria, through their national organization, NCIDQ, allows them to pass 2/3 of exams with a 50% score and 0 correct answers on building codes and safety.*

2. HB 61 will compromise Alaskan’s Health Safety and Welfare.

*Architects coordinate a complex team of engineers and specialists, while overseeing a myriad of construction details, to ensure that buildings are constructed in accordance to design. Comparatively, interior designers only work on a narrow scope of a building’s design and do not have the same level of training, testing or experience to guarantee the same competence as an architect to protect public HSW. I have had experience with interior designers trying to play the role of architect or coordination project teams. Their lack of knowledge in the life safety and code aspects*

*of architecture is apparent and they do not always understand all the parts and pieces that are required to put a building together.*

I have many more discussion points and would be happy to discuss in further detail.

Thank you for taking time to read and take into consideration my opposition of HB 61, Licensing of commercial interior designers.

I am unable to attend the April 19 hearing, so I have prepared this written testimony in lieu of speaking at Monday's hearing, but ask that my testimony please be included in the record.

Regards,

**Michelle E. Klouda** AIA NCARB LEED AP BD+C  
Principal



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**RIM is taking all precautions and complying with CDC guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Employees are working from home and meetings are continuing electronically. Our main phone numbers are being answered remotely during regular business hours and calls forwarded as appropriate. We wish you safe and healthy days ahead.**



# HB61 – EFFECT ON ALASKAN PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

## Does HB61 Improve Public Health, Safety & Welfare? - **NO**

Architects have successfully protected Alaskan public health, safety, and welfare (HSW) since 1949 by providing safe, code-compliant building designs. Architects coordinate a complex team of engineers and specialists, while overseeing a myriad of construction details, to ensure that buildings are constructed in accordance to design. Comparatively, interior designers only work on a narrow scope of a building's design and **do not** have the same level of rigorous training, testing, or experience to guarantee the same competence as an architect to protect public HSW.

By licensing interior designers, HB61 will compromise the proven, public protections already in place and unnecessarily increase the risk to Alaskan's HSW. There is simply no replacement for the intense training and testing an architect receives, which often spans ten or more years through three highly-regulated developmental stages from student to licensed architect.

- 1.) Obtain a degree from an educational program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB);
- 2.) Complete on-the-job training and document experience through the Architecture Experience Program (AXP);
- 3.) Pass the Architect Registration Examination (ARE), a rigorous series of six examinations required by every US jurisdiction.

## Don't Architects Already Provide these Services? - **YES**

HB61 would create unnecessary redundancy and confusion amongst the public as to the authority and responsibility of portions of a building's design. Currently, architects successfully provide the services needed to design the interior and exterior of buildings. It would be harmful to the public as well as the practice of architecture to allow interior designers partial authority over an architect's scope. The unwanted effects of HB61 include less accountability, more confusion, more potential for mistakes and abuses, and increased complexity through unneeded regulations.

## Does HB61 Address a Public Threat/Gap in Services? - **NO**

There is no evidence to suggest a current problem or threat to the public HSW that HB61 would remedy. HB61 has not grown out of a request from the general public, nor the interior products and construction industry. There are less than two dozen people with interior design education and experience in Alaska who have requested HB61 - regulations that they believe would raise their professional standing. However, there is nothing to demonstrate a current threat to public HSW.

Please do the right thing for Alaskans and **OPPOSE HB61!**

## ARCHITECTS

- Education and training addresses the full range of public HSW building concerns (code compliance, safety regulations), including project management and design team coordination.
- Must pass the 6-part ARE exam with 65% average score or better before licensure, which includes over 4.5hrs of testing specific to codes and regulations.
- Must complete a minimum of 3,740 hrs in 6 total experience areas as part of the Architectural Experience Program (ARE) before licensure.
- Stamping responsibilities ensure that construction documents have been prepared and vetted by trusted industry experts with the highest qualifications.

## INTERIOR DESIGNERS

- Do not possess comparable qualifications to architects in terms of public HSW building concerns. Receive less than half the training in building codes and safety regulations as architects.
- Have less vigorous criteria for certification from their national organization, NCIDQ. **Can pass 2/3 exams with a 50% score and 0 correct answers on building codes and safety.**
- Stamping of plans would be redundant yet incomplete with architects' scope.
- Are not currently restricted from practicing their trade or profession.
- Are divided on wanting additional regulations and liability.

## ALASKANS

- Deserve qualified experts to stamp construction documents for buildings.
- Don't need the confusion of multi-tiered licensing regulations.
- Didn't request additional government regulations or expenses.
- Are not currently under-served or under-protected.



**AIA**  
Alaska



# HB61 – A CLOSER EXAMINATION

## Specific Concerns about HB61

AIA Alaska Chapter **opposes** HB61 on the grounds that it does not improve public HSW, splinters portions of the building designer's responsibilities and liability, and leads to an increased risk to project coordination and success. Architects have more than twice the training in building codes and safety regulations as interior designers - training that covers egress, fire ratings, fire suppression systems, and ADA compliance. Additionally, AIA Alaska takes issue with several specific sections of HB61, finding them ambiguous, redundant, or not in the public's best interest.

Sec. 24. AS 08.48.281 - reads that a person who is not a registered commercial interior designer is not prohibited from practicing commercial interior design if the services are performed within the scope of another professional license held by that person. As the **entire scope** of interior design is part of the scope of architecture, this shows how redundant it would be to license interior designers separately from architects.

Sec. 32. AS 08.48.341, item (24), subsections (a), (c), (d), (e) proposes changes to the Alaska Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS). Subsection (a) contains references to "analysis, enhancing, and administration" regarding the definition of a commercial interior designer that are not referenced in the description of any other discipline mentioned in section 29, **nor are they applicable or relevant to the HSW mission of the AELS board**. There is serious ambiguity regarding concepts such as "nonstructural interior construction" or "nonstructural components." HB61 makes no mention of whom would determine whether or not a component is non-structural. Furthermore, how could an interior designer, who is not trained in structure, determine what qualifies as "non-structural" or not? Subsection (d) defines part of a commercial interior designers duties to include "number and configuration of exits for suite occupant load." AIA Alaska does not feel that interior designers are thoroughly qualified to address a building's exiting systems, which are crucial to the public's HSW.

## Negative Effects to the AELS Board

HB61 seeks to add (2) additional members to the AELS board and introduce a new licensed profession which the board must and regulate. The AELS board already faces a significant workload and HB61 does not adequately address how the additional workload, costs, and strain would be mitigated, or more importantly how any discernible benefit to the public could outweigh the additional costs. Members of the AELS board have already raised concerns to HB61 sponsor Rep. Claman.

## Unintended Consequences of HB61

While HB61 seems at first glance to be a positive bill meant to empower interior designers, a more thorough understanding reveals unintended negative consequences. It is hard to imagine a scenario where a commercial interior designer with limited expertise could better protect the public HSW than an architect. Applying the "Right Touch Regulation" approach encouraged by the Alaska Department of Commerce, shows that regulating interior designers neither reduces risk to the public nor presents an appropriate use of government intervention. Additionally, fragmenting the practice of architecture with a second, partial authority creates ambiguous situations regarding liability, building design cohesion, and project management. Alaskans deserve the best protections they can get, and that means leaving State statutes alone and architects in charge of stamping construction documents.



## FINDING COMMON GROUND

Architects are problem solvers, often striving to "make everyone happy" by balancing the needs of their clients, other design professionals, contractors, and various government regulators.

In the spirit of good faith & support to our interior designer colleagues seeking increased distinction, respect, recognition, and professional standing, we support the following alternatives to an Alaska Interior Design Practice Act.

- A "Title Act" which would grant select interior designers additional distinction and recognition after meeting defined requirements, without granting stamping privileges for construction documents.
- Encouraging interior designers who want more authority to become licensed architects. There are many avenues to becoming a licensed architect, some that even substitute an accredited degree for experience (Alternative Education Path).
- Embrace the distinction of NCIDQ certification. There already exists a national organization to certify and therefore differentiate interior designers who have put in the additional time and resources to earn this distinction.

**Architecture is vital and enduring because it contains us; it describes space, space we move through, exit in and use.** - Richard Meier



**AIA**  
Alaska

Ryan Morse, AIA  
(AIA Alaska President) & Paul Baril, AIA  
(AIA Alaska SGN Rep.)

PO Box 244141, Anchorage, AK 99524  
(907) 276-2834 | [contact@aiaalaska.org](mailto:contact@aiaalaska.org)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Paul Baril [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 3:12 PM  
**To:** Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Mike Cronk; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Ronald Gillham; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. James Kaufman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Ken McCarty; Rep. Thomas McKay; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. David Nelson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Josiah Patkotak; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. George Rauscher; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Laddie Shaw; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky  
**Subject:** HB61 Effect on Alaskan Public Health, Safety & Welfare (HSW)  
**Attachments:** AIA Alaska ID Bill Opposition - Position Paper - 20210311.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Alaska State Representatives,

My name is Paul Baril, AIA and I am a licensed architect and small business owner in Anchorage, Alaska. I am also on the board of the APDC (Alaska Professional Design Council) and the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Alaska Chapter State Government Network Representative responsible to advocacy of our profession.

I am writing today regarding HB61, an act related to establishing regulations for commercial interior designers. Like many architects in the state and AIA Alaska, I am firmly opposed to HB61 on the grounds that it is unnecessary and most importantly, may negatively affect public health, safety, and wellness by weakening protective requirements for stamping construction documents. Attached is a short position paper handout outlining AIA Alaska's concerns about HB61.

Additionally, I would like to invite all of you to attend a virtual presentation, over your lunch hour, on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at noon AKST to examine the merits of HB61 in closer detail. Please see Zoom meeting link and info below. We understand that this is short notice, but we wanted to give all of you an opportunity to see our presentation before HB61 goes into hearing with the House Labor and Commerce Committee. Depending on attendance, we will host a second presentation with a date and time to be determined.

As architects, we have an incredible respect for interior designers and their contributions to our field. However, we feel that HB61 goes a step too far by granting interior designers the authority to stamp construction documents – an authority that we feel should be reserved for architects, whose more rigorous training, testing, and experience provide the most protection for the Alaskan public's health, safety, and welfare.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is a 95,000 member organization whose Alaska Chapter has hundreds of members, the majority of which also oppose HB61. I, along with several of my colleagues, plan to testify in opposition of HB61. Until then, we would like to open a dialogue with Alaskan State Representatives to promote our position and raise

awareness of the full implications of HB61. Please read our attached briefing and join us on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at noon AKST to hear from Alaskan architects who want the best for the Alaskan public.

MEETING LINK BELOW -

Paul Baril is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: HB61 Effect on Alaskan Public Health, Safety & Welfare (HSW) - Presentation from AIA Alaska

Time: Mar 15, 2021 12:00 PM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86257916124?pwd=UTluTURFVUF6dmhobUI0VlljaW4wQT09>

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+1 669 900 6833

+1 301 715 8592

+1 312 626 6799

+1 929 436 2866

Meeting ID: 862 5791 6124

Passcode: 747698

Sincerely,

**Paul R. Baril**, AIA

Principal Architect

**Nvision** ARCHITECTURE, INC.



*celebrating* **35+** *years*



**From:**

**To:**

[Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mia Costello](#); [Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Roger Holland](#); [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Lora Reinbold](#); [Sen. Joshua Revak](#); [Sen. Mike Shower](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Natasha Von Imhof](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Sen. David Wilson](#); [Rep. Ben Carpenter](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Mike Cronk](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Ronald Gillham](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Rep. Grier Hopkins](#); [Rep. DeLena Johnson](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Christopher Kurka](#); [Rep. Bart LeBon](#); [Rep. Kevin McCabe](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#); [Rep. Thomas McKay](#); [Rep. Kelly Merrick](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Josiah Patkotak](#); [Rep. Mike Prax](#); [Rep. Sara Rasmussen](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Laddie Shaw](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky](#)

**Subject:** HB61 Effect on Alaskan Public Health, Safety & Welfare (HSW)

**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 3:28:46 PM

**Attachments:** [AIA Alaska ID Bill Opposition - Position Paper - 20210311.pdf](#)

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Dear Alaska State Representatives,

My name is William T. Guevremont, AIA and I am a licensed architect living in Fairbanks, Alaska.

I am writing today regarding HB61, an act related to establishing regulations for commercial interior designers. Like many architects in the state and AIA Alaska, I am firmly opposed to HB61 on the grounds that it is unnecessary and most importantly, may negatively affect public health, safety, and wellness by weakening protective requirements for stamping construction documents. Attached is a short position paper handout outlining AIA Alaska's concerns about HB61.

As architects, we have an incredible respect for interior designers and their contributions to our field. However, we feel that HB61 goes a step too far by granting interior designers the authority to stamp construction documents – an authority that we feel should be reserved for architects, whose more rigorous training, testing, and experience provide the most protection for the Alaskan public's health, safety, and welfare.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is a 95,000 member organization whose Alaska Chapter has hundreds of members, the majority of which also oppose HB61. I, along with several of my colleagues, plan to testify in opposition of HB61. Until then, we would like to open a dialogue with Alaskan State Representatives to promote our position and raise awareness of the full implications of HB61. Please read our attached briefing and join us on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at noon AKST to hear from Alaskan architects who want the best for the Alaskan public.

Thank you in advance for help in not supporting this proposed Bill! [Preview attachment AIA Alaska ID Bill Opposition - Position Paper - 20210311.pdf](#)

Alaska ID Bill Opposition - Position Paper - 20210311.pdf

William (Bill) Guevremont, AIA

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Mia Costello](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Position Statement on HB61  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 12:01:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [AIA Alaska ID Bill Opposition - Position Paper - 20210311.pdf](#)

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Dear Alaska State Representatives,

My name is Tim Conrad, AIA and I am a licensed architect in Anchorage, Alaska.

I am writing today regarding HB61, an act related to establishing regulations for commercial interior designers. Like many architects in the state and AIA Alaska, I am firmly opposed to HB61 on the grounds that it is unnecessary and most importantly, may negatively affect public health, safety, and wellness by weakening protective requirements for stamping construction documents. Attached is a short position paper handout outlining AIA Alaska's concerns about HB61.

As architects, we have an incredible respect for interior designers and their contributions to our field. However, we feel that HB61 goes a step too far by granting interior designers the authority to stamp construction documents – an authority that we feel should be reserved for architects, whose more rigorous training, testing, and experience provide the most protection for the Alaskan public's health, safety, and welfare. As we saw first-hand in the significant earthquake event of 2018, holding our built environment to the highest standard possible ensures not only the safest outcome, but one which provides the greatest opportunity for limited financial loss to property owners. Maintaining a clear directive that charges architects with their specific and rigorous training and professionalism, ensures safe and quality design which results in a resilient built environment for Alaska.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is a 95,000 member organization whose Alaska Chapter has hundreds of members, the majority of which also oppose HB61. I, along with several of my colleagues, plan to testify in opposition of HB61. Until then, we would like to open a dialogue with Alaskan State Representatives to promote our position and raise awareness of the full implications of HB61.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the implications of this bill to the health, safety, and welfare to the residents of Alaska.

Respectfully,

**TIM CONRAD, AIA**

ARCHITECT | **UMIAQ DESIGN, LLC**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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