

Representative Ken McCarty State Capitol Room 428 Juneau AK, 99801

Re: HB61

Dear Representative McCarty:

My name is Richard Rearick and I am a licensed architect in the State of Alaska and a resident of Eagle River, Alaska. I am past Chair of the Alaska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). I am also a past Chair of the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (BRAELS). I have also served as a Member Board Member and committee member, representing the State of Alaska, for both the National Council of Architecture Registration Boards (NCARB), and as a Board Member of the Western Council of Architectural Registration Board (WCARB), for which the State of Alaska is a member.

I am writing to you to express that I do <u>not</u> support HB61. As a practicing architect with over 30 years of experience, and through my board work as the Architect Member with the State of Alaska and its member organizations, I believe that the passage of HB61 will have a negative impact to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State of Alaska. While I respect the services that interior designers can perform, they do not have the same level of education, training, and testing that architects are required to obtain for licensure. Please consider the following reasons:

- Architects currently have the training and qualifications to perform interior design. Interior design is part of the architecture design. Architects may consult with material specialist or interior designers in consideration of interior finishes, furniture, color selections, etc. While an interior design specialty can contribute to the overall design, the requirements for health, safety, and welfare reside with the architect responsible for integration into the overall building system.
- 2. Architects have a much more rigorous education typically requiring a professional degree that includes either a five year Bachelor Degree or a Master's Degree from an educational program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).
- 3. Architects must pass a rigorous 6-part Architecture Registration Exam (ARE) that includes 4.5 hours of testing specific to codes and regulations.
- 4. Architects must complete 3,740 hours in 6 total experience areas as part of the Architectural Experience Program before obtaining licensure.
- 5. Architects have always maintained the responsibility for the architectural design that includes building interiors.
- 6. Licensing interior designers would unnecessarily confuse the public and provide less accountability for meeting the building codes and regulations. This will likely lead to work being performed that should be stamped by a licensed architect.
- 7. Interior designers are not currently restricted from performing their trade or profession.
- 8. Creating a new licensed professional will unnecessarily create addition financial burden

to the citizens of Alaska. There is nothing to demonstrate that there is currently a threat to the public health, safety and welfare.

Respectfully,

Richard Rearick, AIA, NCARB Architect

RRR:rr

cc: Representative Zack Fields Representative Ivy Spohnholz

Subject: Reference: HB 61- Opposition Letter from Alder Arch, Palmer, AK

Dear Representatives Fields and Spohnholz:

I am writing in opposition of HB 61, proposed licensing of commercial interior designers.

My firm is a small firm, as an architect, I do all of my own interior designs and millwork detailing as most architects do on projects for centuries. My firm cannot afford to hire an interior designer on our small projects. Allowing interior designers only dilutes our discipline of architecture. It literally takes food from our mouths and work for our firm. Frank Lloyd Wright designed all of the buildings and his own interiors. Interior designers do not have the schooling or the education to push us out of our positions or our work. Why do we have to compete against them for work? My firm supports 5 employees. We are all locals in the Matsu Valley. This bill will potentially wipe out 50% of our work, causing unemployment for us. I know I am not the only architect this will affect in the State of Alaska.

I am currently finishing a Tenant Improvement for a medical facility in the Matsu Valley, small project with Class A finishes. There are many fire codes that had to be dealt with on the building itself because it was not compliant. Interior designers are not qualified to deal with this.

My office is in the Matsu Valley. Because it is the wild west out here, we are already forced to compete against unqualified drafters.

This bill adds unnecessary regulation to the state of Alaska in a time when we cannot afford additional costs, and while we are working to streamline our government. It also restricts people who are currently practicing interior design, requiring them to meet onerous requirements to do the work they have already been doing for decades.

The bill also adds two more seats to the AELS Board that already has 11 people on it. This is more added bureaucracy and cost to the state, but also to the people who are already registered. The fiscal note on this bill shows the additional costs, and since the AELS Board is paid by the registrants through fees, this cost will be on the backs of current registrants. The number of expected registered interior designers is very low (estimates of perhaps 20 Alaskans), so they cannot cover the costs alone. As a registered architect, I feel it is unfair to burden me with the added cost of licensees, especially when there is no need.

I urge you to review this bill carefully so as to understand the negative impacts it will have on small businesses and existing licensed professions. Please don't dilute the market or our work and careers with this nonsense. I know there have been national movements as well for this, and the national AIA has been against it as well.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Anna Lee, AIA

Principal Architect, Owner Alder Architecture and Design

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Email: Anna Lee <

Anna M. Lee, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

Principal Architect





From:	Ryan Morse <	>
Sent:	Friday, April 1 <mark>6</mark> , 2021 11:57 AM	-
То:	Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz	
Subject:	Opposition of HB 61 - Licensing of con	nmercial interior designers

Representatives Fields and Spohnholz,

Out of respect for your time, I have prepared this written testimony in lieu of speaking at Monday's hearing, but ask that your testimony please be included in the record. I am representing both my personal position and that of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Alaska Chapter as the current board president of the organization.

I am concerned that this bill is being rushed through and has not had time to be fully understood by the people who will be affected. This includes, for example, the requirements in Section 40 in the bill where the State of Alaska and municipal procurement officials will now have to hire interior designers for work like moving office cubicles or changing out carpet.

There are also many terms in this bill that do not make sense and are not used for other design disciplines in the existing statutes and regulations. For example, the word "commercial." The existing statute for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects does not distinguish between commercial and non-commercial, institutional, government, or any other type of project, except that there are specific types of projects that are exempt from having a required design professional. If it's a matter of health, safety, and welfare, it should not matter if it is a commercial or non-commercial building.

Similarly, the interior designers have said that they want the statute to apply to spaces where the public goes, but this, too, is vague and inconsistent with statute for other design professionals whose practice is applicable to public and private buildings. The language of the bill should be carefully reviewed against the AELS statutes that have been in place for over 70 years. If interior design is really necessary (at this time, I do not feel it is), then there should be consistency with existing statute to reduce the confusion and complication that is bound to occur.

I am also concerned that this practice act is an over-reaction to a problem that doesn't even exist. There are other less burdensome options for interior design regulation if the State of Alaska really feels that they need to be regulated. Perhaps something along the line of a licensed Geologist or a Home Inspector would work. This would be much less costly to the State and to the other registrants who will have to foot the bill for the small number of interior designers that might benefit.

Please take time to carefully study this bill. I will continue to do so, as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter that is of great importance to our membership and the health, safety, and welfare of our neighbors. I have included my personal contact information below and encourage you to reach out directly if you have any questions or concerns related to this bill or our industry.

Sincerely,

Ryan N. Morse, AIA, NCARB President - AIA Alaska Architect - Design Alaska - Fairbanks AK

Rep. Zack Fields, Co-chair Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, Co-chair House Labor and Commerce Committee Email: <u>representative.zack.fields@akleg.gov</u> <u>representative.ivy.spohnholz@akleg.gov</u>

Re: HB61 Opposition Testimony Letter

Committee Chairs & Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed legislation that would significantly revise existing state law governing the registration of interior designers and expand the scope of interior design practice to include the practice of interior architecture.

My name is Paul Baril, the Owner and Principal Architect for Nvision Architecture, Inc. in Anchorage. I am testifying in opposition to 2021 House Bill 61. This proposed legislation is unnecessary and confusing. It would not protect the consumer or enhance public safety. It offers a solution where no problem exists.

Only two states, Nevada and the District of Columbia currently regulate the practice of interior design, which is what House Bill 61 is proposing. Florida used to be a state included in this, but they recently repealed the statute regulating the practice of interior design because it was unnecessary.

The purpose of laws in Alaska and all other states governing the practice of architecture and professional engineering is to protect public health and safety. Interior designers in Alaska already are providing their services on larger commercial building projects with no registration/license under the purview and responsibility of a licensed Architect. The public HSW is the most important element in my opposition because my experience of working with Interior Designers has shown me the lack of HSW knowledge and expertise that Interior Designers have as compared to Architects.

The proposed legislation contains new terms and new definitions for "commercial interior design," that lack clarity and are subject to interpretation. It offers no clear line of demarcation between what exactly commercial interior design covers all while covering what architectural services already does, which will create overlap and confusion.

Thank you for your consideration of my opposition to House Bill 61. I encourage you to vote against recommending passage. I would be pleased to respond to any questions.

Sincerely, Paul Baril, AIA

From:Sent:Friday, April 16, 2021 11:53 AMTo:Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Ivy SpohnholzSubject:Reference: HB 61- Opposition Letter from Alder Arch, Palmer, AK

Dear Representatives Fields and Spohnholz:

I am writing in opposition of HB 61, proposed licensing of commercial interior designers.

My firm is a small firm, as an architect, I do all of my own interior designs and millwork detailing as most architects do on projects for centuries. My firm cannot afford to hire an interior designer on our small projects. Allowing interior designers only dilutes our discipline of architecture. It literally takes food from our mouths and work for our firm. Frank Lloyd Wright designed all of the buildings and his own interiors. Interior designers do not have the schooling or the education to push us out of our positions or our work. Why do we have to compete against them for work? My firm supports 5 employees. We are all locals in the Matsu Valley. This bill will potentially wipe out 50% of our work, causing unemployment for us. I know I am not the only architect this will affect in the State of Alaska.

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My office is in the Matsu Valley. Because it is the wild west out here, we are already forced to compete against unqualified drafters.

This bill adds unnecessary regulation to the state of Alaska in a time when we cannot afford additional costs, and while we are working to streamline our government. It also restricts people who are currently practicing interior design, requiring them to meet onerous requirements to do the work they have already been doing for decades.

The bill also adds two more seats to the AELS Board that already has 11 people on it. This is more added bureaucracy and cost to the state, but also to the people who are already registered. The fiscal note on this bill shows the additional costs, and since the AELS Board is paid by the registrants through fees, this cost will be on the backs of current registrants. The number of expected registered interior designers is very low (estimates of perhaps 20 Alaskans), so they cannot cover the costs alone. As a registered architect, I feel it is unfair to burden me with the added cost of licensees, especially when there is no need.

I urge you to review this bill carefully so as to understand the negative impacts it will have on small businesses and existing licensed professions. Please don't dilute the market or our work and careers with this nonsense. I know there have been national movements as well for this, and the national AIA has been against it as well.

Thank you for your time, Sincerely,

Anna Lee, AIA Principal Architect, Owner Alder Architecture and Design Email: Anna Lee < alderarchitecture@gmail.com >

Anna M. Lee, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

Principal Architect

259 S. Alaska Street Palmer, Alaska 99645



Representative Zack Fields, Co-Chair Representative Ivy Spohnholz, Co-Chair House Labor and Commerce Committee email: <u>Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov</u> <u>Representative.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov</u>

Re: Opposition to HB 61 REGISTER COMMERCIAL INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Dear Representative Fields & Sponholz,

I am writing in opposition of HB 61, licensing of commercial interior designers based on this bill's confusing definition of interior design especially as compared to a current example of a similar bill in another state (North Carolina). Out of respect for your time, I have prepared this written testimony instead of speaking at Monday's hearing, but request that my testimony please be included in the record.

The current definition of an interior designer in HB 61 is excessively broad. While some interior designers choose to work within architectural offices, many practice in their own Alaskan firms, independent of other design professions. Currently, interior designers can work independently on all types of projects that do not fall *within the practice of architecture or engineering*. Some of these services include analyzing spaces, selecting furnishings, fixtures and equipment, performing field inspections of projects during construction, etc. Under HB 61, these existing businesses will be required to become licensed interior designers. Are these interior design businesses aware of this proposed change? What are their thoughts on HB 61? To date I have not seen any testimony from these types of independent interior design firms and I am concerned that this is an unnecessary regulatory burden to them.

North Carolina's HB 223 REGISTER OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS clearly defines what an interior designer is allowed and excluded from performing. The term "interior design" specifically excludes the following:

- a. The design of or the responsibility for architectural and engineering work, except as explicitly provided for within this Chapter.
- c. Changing the means of access system.
- e. Changes of use to occupancies not already allowed by the current building.
- f. Changes to life safety plans, including exiting and exit stairs

The above listed items are all life safety factors that affect the public's well-being. Below are excerpts from HB 61 Sec. 32, item (24), definition of Commercial Interior Design that illustrate additional concerns:

(24) "commercial interior design" means a professional service or creative work for a building the primary use of which is public occupancy, involving:

(A) analysis, research, planning, and design of the interior spaces of a building for the purpose of enhancing and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public by preparation of interior drawings, specifications, or other technical submissions and administration of nonstructural interior construction;

(B) design and <mark>specification of code-compliant interior finishes, furnishings, fixtures, or equipment;</mark>

E) <mark>review, analysis, and evaluation of building codes, accessibility standards, or guidelines</mark> for interior planning, design, and nonbearing construction compliance;

The highlighted items illustrate terms that are not currently regulated and adds significant confusion. Additionally, the words commercial, public occupancy, code-compliant, internal circulation systems, suite occupant load, and more are also confusing terms that are not used in other areas of the current AELS statute. These items need to be reevaluated prior to acceptance and perhaps tighten up to exclude life safety items like occupancy loads, exiting, egress, fire walls, fire barriers, smoke barriers, etc.

I have been researching interior design statutes in other states, and it is interesting to note that Michigan repealed all interior design regulation in 2014, and Florida repealed their Practice Act in 2020, making interior design a voluntary certification.

Based on the above comments I urge you to hold HB 61 in committee for further analysis.

Regards, Jessica Cederberg, AIA, NCARB

cc: Representative Josephson

From:Conrad, Timothy <</td>Sent:Friday, April 16, 2021 10:02 AMTo:Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Ivy SpohnholzCc:Rep. Matt ClamanSubject:Testimony on HB 61

Dear Honorable Representatives of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I am writing today in opposition of 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 welfare by weakening protective requirements for stamping construction documents. I will not be able to testify in person on the April 19 hearing, so I respectfully request this email be included as part of the record. My opposition to HB 61 is based on several areas of negative impact to public health, safety, and welfare (HSW), but I will highlight three points here:

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- <u>Education and Training</u>: Interior Designers do not possess comparable qualifications to architects in terms of public HSW. Interior Designers receive less than half the training in building codes and safety regulations as Architect, and are allowed to pass their national organization certification made up of 3 exams, the NCIDQ, with answering zero questions correctly on building codes and safety. Architects however, must pass a 6 part, 4.5 total hours, of the Architectural Experience Program (ARE) exams with a higher required passing score of 65%, and document and complete a minimum of 3,740 hours in 6 experience areas as part of the ARE. Architects are specifically trained and educated on addressing the full range of public HSW along with project management and design team coordination.
- <u>Unnecessary Redundancy and Uncertainty</u>: This bill will create unnecessary redundancy and confusion amongst the public as to the authority and responsibility of portions of a building's design. Trying to divide out interior commercial work in a clear and precise manner which delineates specific responsibility between an Interior Designer and Architect is nearly impossible. While any project may intend to only complete interior commercial work, as any architect will be able to attest to, the scope may very well change based on provisions of national and local codes. This presents a gray area where an interior designer may be faced with decisions well outside of their ability, training, and understanding to administer because of their lesser training and education in building codes and safety. There has been no evidence to suggest a current problem or threat to the public HSW that HB 61 would remedy. These unwanted uncertainties that HB 61 will create will result in less accountability, more confusion, more potential for mistakes and abuses, and increased complexity through unneeded regulation.
- <u>Alaska's Geographical Risk</u>: The earthquake of 2018 in southcentral Alaska provides a recent and clear understanding that reducing requirements and responsibility of our built environment presents higher risks to the public and higher burden of costs to recover from. There was clear evidence within residential areas, subject to lesser requirements and workmanship, suffering significantly greater damage to homes and buildings. Alaska's geographical location demands high standards to effectively manage the risks presented by our numerous challenges: permafrost, earthquakes, and more recently, erosion and global climate change. The Alaska Legislature can help all Alaskans by creating and maintaining the framework for highly qualified professionals to execute their expertise for the benefit of all residents. HB 61 does not maintain the high standard needed, and thus puts greater risk and cost on the residents of Alaska.

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

Respectfully,

TIM CONRAD, AIA ARCHITECT | UMIAQ DESIGN, LLC



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From:	Michelle E. Klouda <
Sent:	Friday, April 16, 2021 9:55 AM
То:	Rep. Thomas McKay
Cc:	Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Zack Fields
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:

- Interior designers to not possess comparable qualifications to architects in terms of public health, safety and wellfare (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 construction 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 a 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.

From:	Ramona Schimscheimer <	
Sent:	Friday, April 16, 2021 8:24 AM	
То:	Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz	
Cc:	Rep. James Kaufman	
Subject:	HB 61- Opposition Letter	

Rep. Zack Fields & Rep. Ivy Spohnholz Co-Chairs: House Labor and Commerce Committee email: <u>Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov</u> <u>Representative.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov</u>

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

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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 Email: Copy: District 28 Representative Mr. James Kaufman

From:Melissa Morse <</th>Sent:Friday, April 16, 2021 7:59 AMTo:Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Ivy SpohnholzSubject: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.

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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:	James E. Dougherty
Sent:	Friday, April 16, 2021 10:49 AM
То:	Rep. Zack Fields
Cc:	Rep. Thomas McKay
Subject:	Opposition to HB 61

Dear Representative Fields-

Out of respect for your time, I have prepared this written testimony in lieu of speaking at Monday's hearing on HB 61, but ask that your testimony please be included it in the record.

I am writing in opposition of HB 61, licensing of commercial interior designers.

My name is James Dougherty, an architect with offices in downtown Anchorage (RIM Architects). RIM has grown from humble Alaska beginnings to an expanded footprint in California, Hawaii, and Guam, with services offered across the nation.

I am a licensed architect in Alaska as well as Oregon and Nevada, which (along with the 50 states) all have rigorous test requirements and educational and experience standards for design professionals. These credentials were hard-earned and came with a fair amount of sacrifice on my part, but I knew of the challenges and prepared accordingly.

I feel that HB61 goes a 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.

Professional architects have assured that when you walk into a building, you aren't sizing up whether you will safely come <u>out</u> of that building, or whether you will be trapped by fire, earthquakes, handicap accessibility, asphyxiation or collapse.

There is a name for designers who have the credential to assure that designs are safe- "architect"; and that role is already licensed and regulated carefully by the state.

How many of your constituents were injured as a result of the earthquake of 2018? (I'm guessing none). We tend not to think of these issues until after something terrible happens, and luckily- Alaskan architects are equipped, trained and mentored by experts. There is no shortage of these existing professionals available to take on building projects- so why this proposed legislation? What "problem" is meant to be solved by this proposal?

Thank You.

James E. Dougherty AIA NCARB LEED AP Managing Principal - Alaska

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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.