



**Alaska
Professional
Design Council**

PO Box 240753
Anchorage AK 99524
AlaskaAPDC@gmail.com

MEMBER SOCIETIES

Alaska Society of
Professional Engineers
(ASPE)

Alaska Society of
Professional Land
Surveyors (ASPLS)

American Society of Civil
Engineers, Alaska Section
(ASCE)

American Society of
Landscape Architects,
Alaska Chapter (ASLA)

American Society of
Interior Designers, Alaska
Chapter (ASID)

Structural Engineers,
Alaska (SEAAK)

March 20, 2026

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Re: Letter of Support for SB-246 / HB-314

On behalf of the **Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC)** and the 1,150 licensed professionals we represent, I urge your support for SB-246 and the companion bill HB-314. Our members are committed to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare, and this legislation is essential to that mission. Importantly, SB-246 and HB-314 reflect thoughtful revisions and address several of the Governor's concerns about the previous version of this legislation, resulting in a stronger, more carefully tailored bill. The case for this bill rests on three key points:

- **Ensuring Regulatory Continuity:** The Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) serves as our foundation for professional oversight in Alaska. A nonpartisan 2024 Sunset Audit found the board serves the public interest and recommended an eight-year extension. This bill enacts this recommendation, ensuring licensure and public safety standards remain uninterrupted for all Alaskans.
- **Modernizing the Marketplace:** This bill authorizes the AELS Board to regulate registered interior designers, expanding the number of qualified Alaskans eligible to perform this work. Because many federal projects require registered designers, the current gap sends work out of state, costing Alaska jobs and revenue. This bill addresses this issue and strengthens competitiveness without adding new seats to the AELS Board.
- **Lowering Costs and Supporting Local Business:** Increasing the number of qualified Alaskan professionals reduces project design costs and allows local firms to pursue this work, while ensuring that professional fees stay in our state rather than being sent to out-of-state firms.

Passage of SB-246 or HB-314 is essential for Alaska's economic growth and public safety. By addressing prior concerns while maintaining strong professional oversight, this legislation strengthens the integrity of our registration system and supports Alaska's design community. We respectfully encourage your support and passage of SB-246 or HB-314. Thank you for your dedicated service to Alaska and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely

Alaska Professional Design Council
John Pekar, P.E., President