

March 2, 2025

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee:

I would like to offer four points that support SB 54, registration for Interior Design

- **The purpose of SB 54** is to protect public health, safety and welfare in code-regulated buildings whose primary use is public occupancy. It offers interior designers providing these services the ability to submit plans for review without direct supervision of another design professional, through meeting national qualification standards of education, experience, and certification and becoming registered with the State of Alaska.
- **Registration removes restrictions** rather than adding to them by allowing qualified interior designers to become registered and to practice to the full extent of their education, and experience. Enabling interior designers to be named the designer of record on interior DOD contracts to leading tenant improvement project teams such as the one that completed the renovations to the Anchorage Legislative Office Building and the relocation of state agencies into the Atwood Building. It provides registered interior designers the ability to submit their own stamped, signed non-structural construction drawings and specifications for permitting. Currently in Alaska, if a stamp is required, an architect must assume full responsibility for the work to stamp the documents.
- **It is compatible** with other design professions practicing in Alaska. Architects are exempt and unaffected by this regulation; residential interior designers are exempt for single- family up to 4-plex structures as they are currently; interior designers who do not wish to become registered may continue to work, exactly as they do now, under the supervision of a registered or licensed professional, but this bill adds a registered interior designer category to those professionals who may supervise their work.
- **This legislation will be self-funded** through application and registration/renewal fees under the AELS registration board and is designed to integrate into AS 08.48, the statute governing regulation for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects. This bill is good for our economy by encouraging in-migration rather than out-migration of design professionals to Alaska and by supporting small businesses, women owned businesses, and expanding consumer choice for qualified design professionals.

We look forward to seeing positive results from the Labor and Commerce hearing on SB 54 and hope that these points help to offer clarity for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary G Knopf, FASID, NCIDQ
Principal ECI Alaska, Retired
9401 Arlene Dr
Anchorage, AK 99502
(907 240-8964