

Alaska Professional Design Council

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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 10, 2025

To: the Alaska Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

The Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) is a non-profit organization that serves as the voice of 1,000 design professionals across the state. Our members include licensed professionals who are committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public, as well as those seeking licensure to do the same. Together, our member organizations work collaboratively to represent the common interests of Alaska's design professionals and advocate for the advancement of the design practices represented.

We are writing in support of the passage of SB 54, which proposes to extend the AELS board for 8 years, incorporate changes requested by the AELS board, and add Registered Interior Designers as another discipline regulated under the AELS board. Interior designers are responsible for designing and modifying interior spaces in both public and private buildings. Their work involves non-structural design elements that can impact life-safety, such as accessibility, exiting access components, fire ratings of walls, and fire ratings of finishes.

Currently, there are no requirements for qualifications in Alaska for providing interior design services within buildings. By introducing registration opportunities for qualified Interior Designers, the public can be assured that those engaging in this work have the necessary education, experience, and examination qualifications to stamp and seal their own design drawings for plan review and permitting, as with other design professionals.

Passage of SB 54 would allow qualified Interior Designers the autonomy to independently take responsibility for their own work.

As the APDC, we stand firmly in support of this bill and are available as a resource to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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John Pekar, P.E. APDC President