



2/27/2025

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Chairman, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature

RE: Support for 2025 AK SB 54

Dear Chairman Bjorkman and members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

On behalf of the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ), I write to you today in support of Senate Bill 54, which would protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public if passed.

CIDQ is the premiere certifying organization for interior design professionals. Our organization develops and administers the three-part NCIDQ Examination, the national interior design certification examination utilized by U.S. jurisdictions for interior design registration or licensure, which assesses the competency of candidates to protect the public through the practice of interior design. With a membership comprised of state regulatory boards from across the United States and Canada, our organization takes seriously the responsibility to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, a responsibility our certified interior designers share.

NCIDQ-Certified Interior Designers are required to undergo formal postsecondary education and thousands of hours of paid, supervised experience to sit for the examination, which tests interior designers' knowledge of core competencies required for professional practice in the industry. This combination of education, experience, and examination helps ensure minimal competency of our certificate holders in the distinct practice of interior design, most of which practice in commercial, code-based environments like office buildings, hotels, hospitals, schools, etc. Our certificate holders are trained, tested, and qualified to design safe, functional public spaces in their practice.

Reasonable regulation of interior designers utilizing the NCIDQ Exam provides a means of offering the state and the public assurance that interior designers are qualified to practice in a manner that protects the public in Alaskan public spaces. CIDQ is prepared and committed to working with the Alaska AELS board and staff, as we do with all our member boards, to implement this bill, to protect health, safety, and welfare, and ensure that practicing Registered Interior Designers in Alaska are trained and competent. We thank the committee for considering this legislation and ask for a favorable report on this bill. Thank you, and I'm happy to be a resource to the committee to answer questions about the NCIDQ exam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew R. Barusch", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Matthew R. Barusch
Director, Government Affairs and Advocacy
Council for Interior Design Qualification

From: [President IIDA NPC](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Please Pass SB54
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 7:34:41 AM

The time is now!

As the President of the International Interior Design Association's Northern Pacific Chapter, which represents nearly 500 members across Alaska, Washington & Idaho. I'm writing in support of and to urge you to pass SB54!

Pass SB54, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Thompson (he/him) Assoc. IIDA
President
IIDA Northern Pacific Chapter
www.iida-northermpacific.org

[Book time to meet with me](#)

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

From: [Dana Nunn](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Please Pass SB54 - Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers
Date: Monday, March 3, 2025 6:11:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Sen. Claman,

I am an interior designer in support of SB54. This bill moves the needle in a substantive way to protect public health, safety, welfare, and well-being. It expands opportunities for qualified design professionals and ensures Alaska remains competitive on DoD projects whose scopes include Comprehensive Interior Design.

Please pass SB54. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Dana Nunn
Anchorage, Alaska, district 15-H

Dana Nunn, FASID, IIDA, NCIDQ, CCS, LEED AP, WELL AP, RID (TX) | Interior Design Director

Main. 907.561.5780 | **Direct.** 907.771.4516

2550 Denali Street, Suite 1300 Anchorage, AK 99503

BETTISWORTH
NORTH



NCIDQ #021025

Texas Registered Interior Designer #10787

ASID Alaska Advocacy Committee Chair

IIDA Northern Pacific chapter, Director of Alaska Advocacy

CIDA Site Visitor Volunteer for Interior Design Accreditation



March 4, 2025

Dear Alaska Senate Labor and Commerce Members:

On behalf of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 54 (SB 54). NCEES proudly voices its support for the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, the state licensing board for professional engineers and professional surveyors, among other fields. Our organization is advocating for an eight-year continuation of the board as we continue to champion licensure's public protections and develop and maintain licensure pathways for engineers and surveyors.

Since its establishment, the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors has played an integral role in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans. With over 5,000 licensed practitioners, the board oversees licensure requirements, enforces licensure law, and ensures its professional engineers and professional surveyors abide by national standards. These licensure requirements and regulations are in place to make sure that only qualified individuals receive and practice with a professional license. Thus, the board is instrumental in safeguarding critical state infrastructure and ensuring site improvement projects are safely conducted each year—all of which impact the daily lives of Alaskans.

As the national organization representing 69 state licensing boards for engineering and surveying, NCEES understands the importance of regulating engineering and surveying licensure and having adequate subject-matter experts on each licensing board to ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare. Professional board members are essential to discerning areas of practice overlap and determining improper practice.

For these reasons, **NCEES implores you to vote for the continuation of the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.** We believe that the board's mission to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Alaska through licensure is too important to interrupt or jeopardize.

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on SB 54, as it is of the utmost importance to our organization. NCEES will continue to support the Alaska board as it works to protect Alaskans and the state's unique environments by upholding the importance of consistency and effectiveness in licensure requirements across the country and within the state.

Sincerely,

Davy McDowell, P.E.
Chief Executive Officer

From: [Barbara Cash](#)
To: [Sen. Jesse Bjorkman](#)
Subject: Please Support SB54
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 5:40:17 PM

Senate Finance Committee
Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair

Dear Senator Bjorkman,

Please Pass SB54, extending the AELS Board and providing registration for interior designers.

This bill establishes requirements for the practice of registered interior design, providing qualified interior designers the opportunity to take responsibility for their scope of work with independent stamp and seal privileges.

SB54 will ensure that Federal Government projects requiring registration for all design disciplines can include **Alaska-registered interior designers**, rather than hiring interior designers registered out-of-state.

This bill allows Alaska interior designers to practice as they currently are, or to become registered with stamp and seal privileges. It will attract and retain young professionals seeking Alaska registration, keep federal project design revenue and registration fees in Alaska; and increase workforce development opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration, and all you do for Alaska!
Respectfully Yours,

Barbara Cash, Interior Designer
2265 Arcadia Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

Barbara Cash, FASID, NCIDQ
bcash@best-yet.net
907.440.9190

From: [Larry Cash](#)
To: [Sen. Jesse Bjorkman](#)
Subject: Support SB54
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 7:32:16 PM

Senator Bjorkman, Chair
Labor & Commerce Committee

Dear Senator Bjorkman,

As an Alaska architect, I'm writing to ask your support for SB54 to extend the AELS Board and create registration for interior designers.

I have worked with interior designers qualified by education, experience, and national examination, who are capable of providing their own non-structural interior construction documents within their scope of work. So I support establishing interior design registration with permitting privileges as provided in SB54.

Thank you for your support.
Sincerely,

Larry S. Cash, Architect, FAIA
2265 Arcadia Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Tracy Vanairsdale](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: SB 54 Support
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:53:16 PM

Senator Claman-

I am a practicing Architect and business owner, writing to you on my personal professional behalf.

I am in support of SB 54. Please pass this important bill. Please extend the AELS board for Interior Designers.

I believe the proposed changes provides an adequate compromise and includes considerations that address the intents of the Interior Design professionals as well as the related design professionals, like myself.

Sincerely,

Tracy Vanairsdale
Architect
Fairbanks, Alaska



**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 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,

John Pekar, P.E.

APDC President

From: [Matthew Jenkins](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Please Pass SB54
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 11:05:08 AM

Hello Sen. Matt Claman,

I would like to express my support from to pass SB54, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Jenkins | Landscape Designer
District J20, Anchorage

From: [Paige Goneau](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Please Pass SB54
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 6:29:54 AM

The time is now! Please pass SB54, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paige Goneau

Interior Designer

District 20-J

From: [Stephanie Cloud](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Please Pass SB54
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 11:04:27 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-n343e4uo.png](#)
[Outlook-3mr0g24c.png](#)
[Outlook-yvl4f0bl.png](#)
[Outlook-ues2i2bd.png](#)
[Outlook-puhmq3wx.png](#)
[Outlook-cepeduyy.png](#)

Hello Senator Yundt,

Please pass SB54, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you!

Stephanie Cloud, Landscape Architect
G-district (Rogers Park, Anchorage)

Stephanie Cloud | Landscape Architect
Main. 907.561.5780 | **Direct Cell.** 907.771.4585
2550 Denali Street, Suite 1300 Anchorage, AK 99503

BETTISWORTH
NORTH



Our Anchorage office has moved! Please be aware of our address change above.

From: [Sue Gillespie](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: I live in District H and support passage of SB54
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 12:41:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Senator Claman:

A follow-up to my earlier email:

I have followed this issue for several years and again ask you to pass SB54, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers. **I grew up in Anchorage, live in District H, and vote in every election.**

Thanks for your consideration.

Sue Gillespie

Sue Gillespie, CF APMP | Marketing and Proposal Manager
Main. 907.561.5780 | **Direct.** 907.771.4522 | **Cell.** 206.498.5072
2550 Denali Street, Suite 1300, Anchorage, AK 99503

BETTISWORTH
NORTH



From: [Kathleen Benoit](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Please Pass SB54
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 6:43:34 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Senator Claman,

I work & live in Wasilla. I am writing to express my support of SB54. Please pass SB54, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Benoit, Architect + Interior Designer

Wasilla, Alaska

[Kathleen Benoit](#), AIA, NCIDQ, CHID, LEED AP (BD+C)
Associate Principal

Architects Alaska
191 East Swanson Avenue, Suite 203
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Tel: 907.373.7503 | Direct: 907.373.4385 | www.architectsalaska.com



ANCHORAGE | WASILLA | BOZEMAN | PRESCOTT

From: [Ashley Killian](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Please Pass SB54
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 11:50:56 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-pfmvvqu1.png](#)
[Outlook-slpszjm0.png](#)
[Outlook-ofbyeeso.png](#)
[Outlook-og2h2jqn.png](#)

Dear Sen. Claman,

The time is now! Please pass SB54, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers. Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ashley Killian
Interior Designer
District E (Anchorage Oceanview/Hillside)

Ashley Killian, Allied ASID
FF&E Specialist, Interior Designer
T 907.563.8474 | M 907.306.6436



www.exploredesign.com





Date: March 24, 2025

From: Mark Kimerer
Principal, Senior Landscape Architect
Bettisworth North Architects and Planners Inc.
Home Address: 4500 Southpark Bluff, Drive, Anchorage
(907) 771-4511, (907) 360-5935
mkimerer@bettisworthnorth.com

To: Alaska State Senate Finance Committee Members

Re: Support for Senate Bill 54 (SB54)

Dear Senator,

As an Alaska business owner employing architects, landscape architects, and interior designers, I am writing to voice my strong support for **Senate Bill 54**, which would establish professional licensure for qualified interior designers in Alaska.

While architects currently seal drawings that address public safety concerns—often including interior elements, it is important to recognize the unique and technical contributions of interior designers, particularly in complex building interiors. Interior designers regularly address life safety components such as space planning for egress, accessibility compliance, and the selection of fire-rated materials and finishes. These decisions require a specialized knowledge base and close familiarity with building codes.

Under the current structure in Alaska, there is no direct pathway for interior designers to demonstrate their qualifications or take professional responsibility for their own work. SB54 would establish a voluntary licensure option, ensuring that those interior designers who meet national standards of **education, experience, and examination** are recognized as competent to work within a clearly defined scope. This would allow them to stamp and submit their own non-structural interior construction documents for permit—improving efficiency while maintaining accountability and public safety.

This is particularly relevant as federal and Department of Defense projects increasingly require a licensed or registered interior designer. Without a licensure pathway in Alaska, our professionals must seek credentials out of state, creating unnecessary barriers and diminishing local economic opportunities.

SB54 brings Alaska in line with national standards and recognizes the professionalism and technical expertise interior designers contribute to the built environment. I respectfully urge your support of this important legislation.

Thank you for your service and leadership on behalf of Alaskans.

Respectfully,

Principal, Senior Landscape Architect

FAIRBANKS

📍 212 Front Street, Suite 200 Fairbanks, AK 99701
📞 907.456.5780 📠 907.451.8522

ANCHORAGE

📍 2550 Denali Street, Suite 1300 Anchorage, AK 99503
📞 907.561.5780 📠 907.562.5780

Mark Kimerer | Principal | Landscape Architect

Main. 907.561.5780 | **Direct.** 907.771.4511 | **Mobile.** 907.360.5935
2550 Denali Street, Suite 1300 Anchorage, AK 99503



From: [Natasha Schmidt](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Please pass SB54
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 7:28:43 AM

Senate Finance Committee
Senator Claman

I strongly support SB54 extending the AEELS Board and Registering Interior Designers.
Please pass it now! Thank you for supporting and sponsoring this bill.

Thank you,

Natasha Schmidt
Interior Designer
18360 Potter Bluff Circle Anchorage, Alaska 99516

Natasha Schmidt, NCIDQ, ASID
Director of Design + Operations

SALT
907.229.9351 C | 907.278.0069 D
www.salt-ak.com

I will be on vacation March 21 - April 1, working remotely on the 24th and 25th and will be checking emails the rest of the time away.
I am out of the office on Fridays, but available on my cell.

At SALT we value and respect flexible work arrangements. I sometimes send emails outside normal work hours. No need to respond to my emails outside of your work hours.

From: [Chris Mertl](#)
To: [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Support for SB54
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:32:33 AM

Senator Claman,

I appreciate the time you took to sit down with the Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) last week and I wanted to share my personal support for SB54 that extends the AELS Board and adds the registration of Interior Designers. Thank you for sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

Christopher Mertl, ASLA, PLA
Alaska Registered Landscape Architect, AK LA-10440
Juneau, AK
907-988-9000

Subject: Support for SB54: Extension of AELS Board and Registration of Interior Designers

Dear Sen. Matt Claman,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of SB54, which seeks to extend the AELS Board and establish a formal registration process for interior designers.

This legislation is vital for enhancing professionalism and accountability within the interior design industry. By recognizing and registering interior designers, we can ensure higher standards of practice and better protect the interests of public welfare.

Thank you for considering this important measure. Your support in passing SB54 will greatly benefit our profession and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Melissa Wiltfong

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Wiltfong". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Melissa Wiltfong
Eagle River, Alaska