

**1. Do Interior Designers Have Adequate Health, Safety and Welfare Education, Training and Testing to protect the public? YES.**

- The Council for Interior Design Accreditation sets the standard for interior design education, addressing relevant public HSW issues, ensuring college graduates understand their role protecting building occupants, applying laws, codes, standards and guidelines to solution development throughout the design process, and teaming with other design professionals.
- The National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination for professional interior design certification similarly addresses relevant public HSW issues. **Exam-ready candidates demonstrate application and/or understanding of federal, state/provincial, and local codes** including fire and life safety, barrier-free and accessibility (ADA) regulations & guidelines for interior spaces. It is a 3-part, 11-hour National Exam including a practicum.
- To qualify for the Exam, interior designers must complete rigorous college/university interior design-specific education and between 3,520 to 5,280 hours of supervised training.

**2. Does Interior Design Legislation Improve Public Health, Safety & Welfare? YES.**

- Interior designers often work directly with business or institutional clientele in public and private buildings providing interior space programming, design, function and fit-out, while effectively protecting the public through application of codes, standards, and regulations. This bill reasonably regulates those individuals and provides professional design and guidance when full architectural services are not required.

**3. Does Interior Design Legislation Address a Public Threat/Gap in Services? Is there really a threat to public Health, Safety, Welfare? Can the decision to specify the wrong interior materials contribute to death? YES.**

- The National Fire Protection Association states the selection of public assembly interior space content is a primary determinant of whether fire accidents become tragedies, second only to fire ignition source for public life/property impact.
- Per a 12/31/2020 Report from the Virginia Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation: “The unregulated practice of interior design presents at least a moderate risk of public harm. The involvement of other regulated design professionals or building codes and inspections may not be sufficient to mitigate potential hazards to public health, safety, and welfare.”

**4. Can't interior designers be satisfied with NCIDQ Certification as a national qualification standard? NO.**

- NCIDQ is not an alternative to state regulation because the organization is not a sanctioning body. Additionally, NCIDQ Certification cannot grant any additional practice rights as it does not have state regulatory power.

**5. Does the profession/occupation require such skill that the public generally is not qualified to select a competent practitioner without some assurance that they have met minimum qualifications? YES.**

- The practice of interior design is specialized and requires practitioners to demonstrate competency in areas including fire, life-safety, building and energy codes; space planning and wayfinding; interior building materials, finishes, furnishings, and equipment; lighting and acoustics; accessibility standards, ergonomics and anthropometrics; and human environmental behavior.

**6. Don't Architects Already Provide Interior Design Services? NOT NECESSARILY.**

- Interior designers are experts in the field, with focused education, training and examination to specifically provide occupant-centric services, while architects generally have no specific interior design coursework within their education.
- Architecture firms often employ interior designers for interior, nonstructural work due to their expertise. Architecture firms that do not have in-house interior design have been required to contract with NCIDQ-certified interior designers to complete larger projects in Alaska for military and federal agencies, in compliance with the [Federal Unified Facility Criteria](#) and [Whole Building Design Guide](#).
- Much as nurse practitioners provide defined autonomous scopes of practice within the broader medical field, commercial interior designers with education, experience, and examination should be allowed to provide and take responsibility for their own regulated work.

**7. Interior design is not a recognized design profession, is it? YES, IT IS.**

- Interior Design is a recognized profession not only in 27 states/jurisdictions but also by the **U.S. Federal Government** per the [Unified Facility Criteria \(UFC\)](#), & [Whole Building Design Guide \(WBDG\)](#). Additionally, interior design has its own separate classification under the North American Industry Classification System (541410 – Interior Design Services). The NAICS System was developed for use by Federal Statistical Agencies for the collection, analysis and publication of statistical data related to the US Economy.

**8. Is it possible to pass 2/3 of the NCIDQ exams with a 50% score, and 0 correct answers on building codes and safety? NO.**

- It is not possible to pass ANY of the 3 parts (NCIDQ exam) with only half the questions answered correctly. An assessment of each question on the current exam indicates it would not be possible to miss all questions pertaining to “building codes and safety” woven throughout the exam, and pass it.

**SUPPORT INTERIOR DESIGN LEGISLATION!**

## INTERIOR DESIGN IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

Alaska commercial interior designers work within public and private buildings in a variety of building occupant types and project sectors. These include corporate, professional office, healthcare, hospitality, government, educational, civic and transportation.

**The practice of commercial interior design includes any of the following services affecting public health or life-safety and thus requires registration as a qualified interior designer:**

Interior space analysis, planning, design, documentation:

- a. Interior occupant loads, circulation and exiting: number and location of suite exits, internal path of travel distance and width, accessible movement within suites and to exits via exit access components
- b. Interior finish materials/systems: flame spread, smoke density, slip resistance coefficient, infection control
- c. Interior furnishings, fixtures, equipment: combustibility, smoke propagation, bracing, clearances, disinfection protocols
- d. Interior non-bearing construction documents

AREA OF HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE IMPACT & DESCRIPTION		HEALTH	SAFETY	WELFARE
1.	Interior Occupant Loads		✓	
2.	Interior Space Design, Circulation & Exiting		✓	
3.	Path of Travel, Widths and Distance to Exit		✓	
4.	Interior Signage Systems, Exiting & Accessibility (ADA)		✓	
5.	Emergency Lighting Locations		✓	
6.	Annunciators, Strobes, Fire Extinguisher Locations		✓	
7.	Finish Materials and Furnishings: Flammability, Flame Spread, Smoke Density, Smoke Propagation, Slip-Resistance		✓	
8.	Accessibility Standards and Universal Design		✓	✓
9.	Anthropometrics (human body size and shape)	✓		✓
10.	Ergonomics (humans in working environments)	✓		✓
11.	Acoustics, Sound Transfer and Mitigation	✓		✓
12.	Lighting Management (glare control, daylighting strategies, circadian lighting)	✓	✓	✓
13.	Infection Prevention and Control	✓	✓	✓
14.	Material Sustainability, Toxicity	✓	✓	✓
15.	Biophilic Design (increases occupant connectivity to the natural environment)	✓		✓
16.	Behavioral Science and Environmental Psychology	✓		✓
17.	Culture, Function, Relevance			✓

## INTERIOR DESIGN LEGISLATION INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

### What do commercial interior designers do?

Commercial interior designers provide interior space analysis, planning and design, non-bearing interior construction drawings, furniture and finish specifications, and management of interior construction and alteration projects in public and private buildings. They work in compliance with applicable building design, construction and life-safety codes, regulations and guidelines to obtain non-bearing construction permits and are qualified by education, experience and examination to provide these services.

### What is the purpose of Interior Design Legislation?

Interior Design Legislation protects public life-safety in the design of building interior environments, creates professional registration for interior designers & regulates the practice of interior design.

### What does Interior Design Legislation do?

It allows interior designers qualified by education, experience, and examination to independently perform the regulated scope of “registered interior design.” It defines the professional practice of interior design, requires registered interior designers to meet national certification criteria of education, training and passing a rigorous 3-part national exam. It provides registered interior designers stamp & seal privileges when required for non-bearing construction permit drawings, thus taking responsibility for their own work.

### What is the benefit to the public? Is there economic benefit?

It provides another measure of public safety protection and risk-mitigation for types requiring involvement of qualified design professionals building, expands consumer choice of qualified design professionals, increases professional employment opportunities, creates Alaska-hire incentive for professional interior design, attracts high-quality design talent to Alaska, encourages small business, and Alaska students studying “outside” to return home for professional career opportunities.

### Do ALL interior designers need to be registered? Do architects need this registration?

No. Only interior designers who wish to practice within the regulated scope of interior design must either become registered in Alaska, or work under direct supervision of a registered interior designer or architect. Registered architects are exempt; interior designers of single-family to 4-plex (with height restrictions) residential structures are exempt.

### Can anyone become a Registered Interior Designer?

No. Only persons who meet qualifications of interior design education and experience required by the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) to sit for the 3-part national certification exam (NCIDQ Exam), and who pass the exam in full, may apply to the state for registration as commercial interior designers.

### How will Interior Design Legislation be funded?

It is intended to be self-funded at low/no cost to the state through the existing Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, within the same fee structure as the other design disciplines.

### Do other states legally recognize interior design? Yes.

- 28 US states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and 7 Canadian provinces regulate interior design
- 27 US states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and 7 Canadian provinces require the NCIDQ Exam
- 14 US states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and 7 Canadian provinces have interior design stamp-sign and seal permitting privileges

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Bobbie Scanio <bobbiescanio@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 1:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB73 – Registration for Interior Designers

March 27, 2023  
State of Alaska,  
Juneau, AK

To: The Honorable Gary Stevens,  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton,  
Speaker of the House

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

I am writing this to ask you to please support SB73 – Registration for Interior Designers.

I grew up in Alaska and moved back after a long stint in Texas. When I left and decided to pursue a career in interior design, I didn't think there was enough of an industry in Alaska to ever move back. I thought if I were to return to Alaska, I might have to change career paths. That sounds silly to say now, but this girl from Nome thought there was no future for Interior Design in Alaska and I'm sure I'm not the only one who left wondering the same. Well, I was wrong; I now work for an architecture firm as a commercial interior designer. The catch, I have to get my work (even non load bearing) approved by an architect before it can get a permit, even if they know little about the project.

About my time in Texas, it was one of a few states at the time that had established the title act and recognized the differences between commercial interior designers and interior decorators. There is a difference, most notably for interior designers who work within public-occupancy buildings directly impact public health, safety and welfare in most aspects of their work and are educated, trained, and tested to do so. By leaving Texas and returning to Alaska I left my "Registered Interior Designer" status and number.

This bill doesn't hurt other professions, ultimately it will save a lot of time for the current in-house juggling that happens, which as a result is better for the clients (the business owners/corporations in Alaska). It will also be voluntary: non-registered interior designers may work in the residential field or in the commercial field under a registered commercial interior designer or architect. It also does not limit other design professions; architects will be exempt from this registration.

Right now, as you receive all kinds of letters on reasons to support or not support this bill, please consider what it is Interior Designers add to the atmosphere. I've always thought design and specifically interior design affects a person deeper than they realize; most people associate interior design with the way an interior looks and not how it functions; they don't notice if the space is accessible to a wheelchair, if an object projects into the path that a cane would not detect for the visually impaired or even whether the materials are flammable, and they shouldn't have to. That is part of the job of the commercial interior designer, to improve the safety of our public buildings. Architects do this, and we are not taking that away from them, but consider, often they focus on the building itself. They have a lot of parts to pay attention to. Even now, many firms have interior designers working with architects (like our firm does). We should as a design community be looking out for the public safety as a greater good, together making the spaces better, allowing registered interior designers direct responsibility for their own work is a step toward this.

SB73 is not taking jobs away from anyone, it does not affect the ability of architects, engineers, or residential designers, it is recognizing that there is a subset of professionals that have received the education, done the work, passed the qualifying exam, and continue to keep up with the safety requirements yearly.

Hopefully, this adds a useful perspective.

Thank you for your support!

Bobbie Scanio, NCIDQ, ASID 2023 Board Member, Interior Designer

April 7, 2023

State of Alaska,  
Juneau, AK

To: The Honorable Gary Stevens,  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton,  
Speaker of the House

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

**SB 73 Professional Registration for Interior Designers**

Good afternoon,

I would like to express my support of Senate Bill 73.

Interior Design is a specialized field of practice, within the built environment. As an interior designer, I know first-hand the rigor of the specialty. My education created a basis of understanding to interpret and apply building codes for practical and safe solutions. I worked under NCIDQ certified interior designers after graduation to establish a contextual understanding of real-world design solutions and best practices for application. Once eligible, I took that same examination (NCIDQ) to demonstrate and confirm my abilities to problem-solve and design solutions to create safe spaces for commercial use. Now, as an owner of an interior design & strategic planning firm I rely on this foundation in my day-to-day practice to ensure that projects are suitable for public use, and designers under my direct supervision are receiving training and exposure to this same diligence in practice.

Many of the projects that my firm completes are multi-disciplinary including consultant teams of mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, structural engineers, and others depending on the project's scope. In a multi-disciplinary team, each consultant assumes responsibility for their work, and SB 73 would enable interior designers to do the same: assume responsibility for our own work as it relates to public health, safety, and welfare. Professional registration for interior designers would not preclude architects from practicing this same scope, nor the broader scope within which they are trained & examined to practice within. Most importantly, registration would ensure that those practicing within this specialized area of the built environment are qualified to complete this work based on education, examination, and experience.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter of support for HB 61, Registration for Interior Designers.

Sincerely,

**Kelsey Davidson, ASID**

Principal at SALT, LLC, located in Anchorage Alaska

11607 Birch Hills Drive, Eagle River, AK 99577

(907) 738-4117, [kdavidsen@salt-ak.com](mailto:kdavidsen@salt-ak.com)



**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)

Institute of Transportation Engineers, Alaska Section (ITE)

Structural Engineers Association of Alaska (SEAAK)

**2023 Legislative Session Position Statements**

The Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) is a non-profit corporation that represents the common interests of Alaska’s design professionals. Our member associations include engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, and interior designers that live and work throughout the state of Alaska. APDC represents over 1150 design professionals. The following are our positions on issues before the Alaska State Legislature this year.

**SB 40/HB 39 Operating Budget**

The State of Alaska owns and operates over 2400 facilities throughout the state. The regular maintenance of these facilities prevents deferred maintenance expenses and allows the State to operate and maintain our most critical infrastructure, including snow and ice removal, ability to respond in emergencies, office facilities for staff in over 15 state agencies and providing adequate preventative maintenance. In the January 27, 2023 Senate Finance Committee meeting it was noted that to prevent deferred maintenance, the annual maintenance funding should be in a range of 2-4% of the total infrastructure replacement cost. The Governor’s proposed 2024 budget is \$112.4 Million. This proposed budget is just below 1.5% of the estimated projected infrastructure replacement cost of \$7.7 Billion. APDC recommends supporting a Maintenance Budget which falls closer to 3% to prevent deferred maintenance costs in the future. Properly maintained infrastructure is vital to our Alaskan economy.

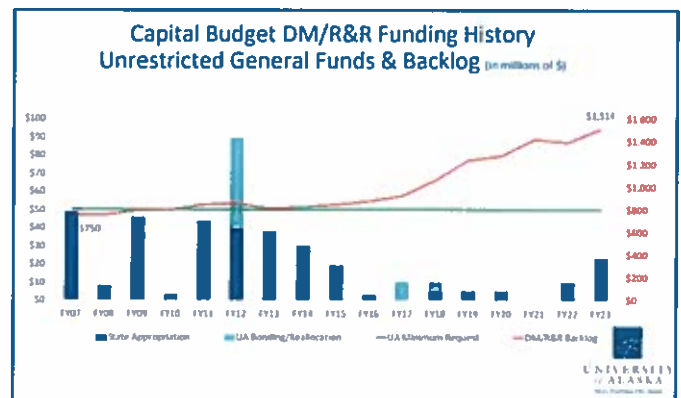


Figure 1: Graph provided by UA during 1/27/23 Senate Finance Meeting.

**Sustainable Operating Budget:**

APDC supports the legislative development of a sustainable operating budget that includes additional revenue generation applied across the breadth of the population. The revenue method should vest all citizens of Alaska in responsible state government. A Statewide income tax, permanent fund formula change, and statewide sales tax are all potential sources of revenue. In addition, responsible budget cuts should also be considered. This may require elimination of some programs, which were justifiable when the State had sufficient revenue, but are now unsustainable.

**Education Funding:**

In the design fields, STEM and Arts education is critical to grow and develop professionals in our state. Schools need predictable and reliable funding to meet the rising costs of living and doing business in Alaska. Additional funding for summer and after school programs such as Teaching Through Technology, Lego Robotics, and Science Olympiad is critical to the infrastructure design workforce in Alaska. House Bill 65 and Senate Bill 52 currently address education funding. APDC supports raising the Base Student Allocation.

***Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing- Professional Licensing Stabilization:***

APDC supports the efforts of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing to stabilize the fee structure for licensees by including the costs of appeals and investigations as proposed in the governors FY2024 operating budget. This action will decrease registration fee volatility to licensees and target fee relief for industries and occupations with a high need and a corresponding high cost of entry. This proposed remedy is in response to legislative intent language included in the FY2023 operating budget.

**SB 41/HB 40 Capital Budget**

APDC recommends a minimum annual total capital budget of \$2.1 billion. The capital budget is intended to help avoid closures of maintenance stations and to ensure that existing infrastructure can be maintained in a good state of repair. The Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released a 2021 Report Card that graded the condition of Alaska's public infrastructure. This report shows that Alaska's public infrastructure requires additional capital investment to decrease the costs of deferred maintenance, avoid further deterioration, upgrade facility operations, and improve public health and safety. Since 2014, the State's capital budget has been inadequate. The longer we delay funding, the more it will cost to catch up with the deterioration of our infrastructure. Additional capital investment will protect our infrastructure as well as stimulate the economy. APDC recommends the State take advantage of matching federal spending when able to maximize our capture of federal infrastructure funding. ASCE's report card can be found at: <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/alaska/>

**SB 73 – Registration for Interior Designers**

APDC supports registration for Interior Designers. These professionals design new, and modify existing, interior spaces in public or private buildings. Their work includes non-structural design elements often involving components affecting life safety, whether it be accessibility, exiting access components, fire ratings of walls, or fire ratings of finishes. To protect public safety through licensure, registered Interior Designers will ensure that those responsible for this work are qualified based on education, experience, and national examination (or are under direct supervision of qualified individual), as are other design professionals. It is becoming more common for Department of Defense projects to require a registered interior designer. Alaskans are unable to be registered in our state which necessitates registration in another state to work on Military projects. SB 73 will allow registered Interior Designers to stamp their own interior construction documents for permit within their scope of practice, as are other disciplines, and take responsibility for their own work.

**AELS AS 08.48 Statute Changes – Yet to Be Introduced**

APDC supports the proposed changes to the AS 08.48 statutes requested by the Alaska Board of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors. The revisions provided clarifications, correct errors, and remove commonly misunderstood sections from the statutes. APDC also supports funding travel for in-person AELS Board Meetings four times per year. There are many significant benefits of in-person meetings in the major population centers of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau including in-person testimony from Alaskan design professionals and the public across the state. There is tremendous benefit when practicing professionals invest and participate in the regulation process.

**Statewide Earthquake Preparedness**

The 2018 earthquake was a reminder that Alaska is a high-seismic region. This mid-level earthquake resulted in years of community disturbance, a national emergency declaration, \$1.6M in state individual assistance grants, and well over \$100M in infrastructure repair costs. A repeat of the 1964 Earthquake would have greater consequences for our community. APDC supports the continued efforts of the Alaska Seismic Hazard Safety Commission (ASHSC) to complete screening level and detailed seismic hazard assessments for critical public facilities in Alaska, and specifically supports identification and execution of structural seismic retrofits of schools where engineering analysis reveals the necessity. APDC also supports the ASHSC recommendation to adopt current building codes as soon as practicable and to provide enforcement mechanisms as outlined in their Policy 2020-1.



## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Barbara Cash <bcash@best-yet.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2023 5:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** Please Support SB 73, Register Interior Designers

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Gary Stevens  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton  
Speaker of the House

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

### **Please Pass SB 73 Registration for Alaska Interior Designers**

I'm writing to ask your support for SB 73, to register interior designers in Alaska's public and private buildings.

#### **Why SB 73 is Good Policy for Alaskans:**

- **It increases public safety protection.** Regulates the currently unregulated interior design practice in buildings, affecting public health, safety, and welfare; requires education, experience, and tested application of codes, regulations and guidelines in order to practice.
- **Is required to compete for Federal Work.** The US Department of Defense **requires registered interior designers** for design projects, recognizing the value of state regulation, accountability, and enforceability. SB 73 boosts our ability to compete with outside firms, keeping the work, revenue, and registration in Alaska!
- **Addresses protectionism and barriers to entry.** Some architects protect their control by opposing the rights of educated, experienced NCIDQ-qualified interior designers to practice independently in Alaska's buildings. However, that is exactly what we are trained and tested to do. SB 73 will resolve this matter, allowing registered interior designers to take responsibility for their own regulated work.  
SB 73:
  - **Eliminates the unnecessary and costly barrier** of duplicative architectural oversight and may advance project schedules.
  - **Does not threaten, alter, limit, or prevent** any aspect of the practice of architecture in Alaska. Architects also practice interior design.
  - **Unregistered interior designers** may still provide the regulated services under a qualified professional, or independently work within the residential single-family to 4-plex field.

**Please support SB 73 to Benefit Alaska's Public, Increase Consumer Choice and Advance Alaska's Economy!**

Respectfully,



## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Cara Rude <crude@exploredesign.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 12:00 PM  
**To:** Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Dana Nunn  
**Subject:** SB73 - Letter of Support

The Honorable Gary Stevens, Senate President, The Honorable Cathy Tilton, Speaker of the House, and the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

I am reaching out in support of **SB73 Professional Registration for Interior Designers**

My name is Cara Rude. I am an interior designer and owner of MCG Explore Design in Anchorage, Alaska. We currently employ 7 Architects, 1 Intern Architect, 2 Interior Designers, 2 Associate Interior Designers, and 8 support staff including drafters/modelers. I have been practicing Interior Design for 20 years and have created many of the public spaces you have experienced from schools across our State, the Anchorage Museum, the Ted Steven International Airport (most recently the North Terminal Northern Pacific Airways remodel), and Department of Defense facilities on JBRE, Fort Wainwright and Clear Space Force Station. As you can see the scope of my practice extends to our national security, our children, our travel and our pride in Alaskan identity (thank you Anchorage Museum).

The Architects that work alongside and under my leadership understand this importance, understand my qualifications and impact on the public safety and welfare of Alaskans. How though, is the public, yourselves included, supposed to understand, or have choice in my services if there is no distinction through licensure?

Trust that I will continue to practice for decades to come, shape our State and our Federal infrastructure, but my situation of authority is unique. How am I supposed to attract new talent to our State and generations of new Interior Designers to sell my practice to? How will the market be elevated if there is no line to define the scope of services? Furthermore, when I retire, when my work is occupied long after the team that help build it are associated, there will be no record of me. (Yes this part is ego driven) but those Architects names claim my work. The record will not be authentic. And I ask you, in my position wouldn't you desire and deserve to author the work you also do for our great State?

I have been in active support since 2016 of Licensure for Interior Designers. I will continue to be until the policy catches up with the practice.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my career and professional practice.

Home Address: 2140 Arcadia Drive, Anchorage, Alaska

**Cara Rude**, ASID, NCIDQ, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, NEWH  
Principal, Interior Designer  
T 907.865.8226 | M 907.398.53797 Architects,



[www.exploredesign.com](http://www.exploredesign.com)



## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Dana Nunn <dnunn@bettisworthnorth.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 7:34 PM  
**To:** Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Barbara Cash - SALT llc (bcash@best-yet.net)  
**Subject:** Please Support SB 73, Professional Registration for Interior Designers

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

To: The Honorable Gary Stevens,  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton,  
Speaker of the House

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

### **Please Support SB 73, Professional Registration for Interior Designers**

**SB 73 proposes reasonable regulation to protect public health, safety, and welfare**, by establishing professional registration for interior designers qualified by education, experience, and examination, to practice independently, with stamp and seal privileges, all within a limited scope of work for which they are specifically trained and tested to do.

**Interior designers directly impact public health, safety, and welfare in most aspects of their work.** Interior designers who have earned an accredited university degree, completed hands-on training, and successfully passed the internationally-recognized 3-part NCIDQ certification exam are well-qualified to understand and execute the following public safety design responsibilities:

- Design of interior non-bearing wall and ceiling configurations including: occupancy class determination, occupant load analysis, exit analysis including number and location of internal exits/exit access, path of travel distance and clear width, accessibility within suites and to exits
- Design and specification of interior materials, furnishings, and fixtures, which require knowledge of the following: accessibility and egress clearances, infection mitigation and control, combustibility, flame spread, smoke propagation, material toxicity, and slip resistance
- Development of interior technical submissions (i.e., plans, specifications, contract documents) in compliance with applicable building, fire, and accessibility code, regulation, and guideline requirements; fire detection/suppression device location coordination; and coordination with other engineering professions to provide a complete construction package

#### **SB 73 Registration for interior designers will:**

- Be voluntary: non-registered interior designers may work in the residential market (single to 4-plex, with height restrictions) or under the direct supervision of a registered interior designer or a registered architect for commercial work (public occupancy).
- Be compatible with all design professions: architects will be exempt from this registration and architects that wish to provide interior design services may continue to do so.
- Be considered self-funded through the existing AELS Registration Board fee structure with a minimal increase per license holder.

- Provide a professional stamp for interior non-bearing construction document permitting, giving registered interior designers direct responsibility for their own work which currently must be supervised and over-stamped by a registered architect.

### **SB 73 Economic Benefits to Alaskans:**

- Expands consumer choice of qualified design professionals; encourages small business.  
There are very few interior design small businesses in Alaska which perform the work addressed in SB73. It is generally not feasible to independently practice interior design in Alaska outside of private residential work since plan review and permitting necessitate the involvement of a registered architect to oversee and overstamp a designer's work, adding time and expense to projects for clients with limited schedules and budgets.
- Encourages hiring Alaskans instead of "outside experts" for professional interior design.  
Most Federal agencies and entities require credentialed Interior Designers under the Unified Facility Criteria (UFC) and/or the Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG). These include U.S. General Services Administration, U.S. Department of Defense (all branches of the military), Department of Veteran Affairs, National Park Service, and Administrative Office of the United States Courts, amongst many others. Many times, these entities seek services outside Alaska, but instituting professional registration for interior designers would make it easier to identify qualified professionals within Alaska and keep that work here.
- Increases professional employment and salary opportunities in Alaska, attracting high-quality design talent to the state, encouraging Alaskans to return home to begin a career after completing their degree, and helping to reduce the professional workforce gap.  
My concern for workforce development has only increased in the last year. The design professions face a shortage of talent amongst all disciplines at all levels nationwide and the post-pandemic market has only increased competition for recruiting. The breadth of upcoming work across Alaska requires both design and construction workforces to take full advantage of the funding allocated to Alaska in the recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It is critically important that Alaska positions itself as an ideal place to start and advance a career, build a life, grow families, and engage in community.
- Ensures unrestrained access to market, enabling qualified design professionals to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and examination, and take responsibility for their work.

**Please support SB 73 Registration for Interior Designers** to protect public safety, expand consumer choice, and bring economic benefits to Alaska. [Help Alaska join 28 US states, districts and territories that regulate interior design!](#)

Informational video: [What Does an Interior Designer Actually Do?](#)

Sincerely,  
Dana Nunn  
1605 Atkinson Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
[dnunn@bettisworthnorth.com](mailto:dnunn@bettisworthnorth.com)  
(907) 223-8466

**Amy K. Mestas, PE, SE**  
**3641 North Point Dr.**  
**Anchorage AK 99502**

April 2, 2023

Senator Kelly Merrick  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
State Capitol Room 30  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 73 Register Interior Designers

Senator Merrick,

I am writing as a registered civil and structural engineer with 17 years of experience practicing in the design industry, as a Board Member and Legislative Committee Chair of the Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC), as a member of the Structural Engineers Association of Alaska (SEAAK), and as member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

I am in support of registration for Interior Designers. These professionals design new, and modify existing, interior spaces in public or private buildings. Their work includes non-structural design elements often involving components affecting life safety, whether it be accessibility, exiting access components, fire ratings of walls, or fire ratings of finishes. To protect public safety through licensure, registered Interior Designers will ensure that those responsible for this work are qualified based on education, experience, and national examination (or are under direct supervision of qualified individual), as are other design professionals. It is becoming more common for Military projects to require a registered interior designer. We will be putting our local designers at a disadvantage when compared with outside firms if they are not permitted to obtain a license in Alaska (or require them to get licensed in another state to work in our own back yard). SB 73 will allow registered Interior Designers to stamp their own interior construction documents for permit within their scope of practice, as are other disciplines, and take responsibility for their own work.

This bill recognizes a design profession that has existed in our market for decades and allows those who show competence via their education, experience, and examination, to practice independently. As we are experiencing a shortage of design staff in the state, it would also seem prudent to the economy to license interior designers. There are many interiors projects which deal with life safety which could be designed by a licensed interior designer without the involvement of a registered architect. This would alleviate some of the workforce shortages our design industry is currently facing. It does not prevent architects from doing interior designs, nor does it prevent unregistered Interior Designers from working on projects that do not affect the public safety, health, and welfare.

The American Society of Interior Designers – Alaska Chapter has worked closely with the Alaska American Institute of Architects to adjust the language presented in the bill to be acceptable to both architects and interior designers. I urge you to pass this bill with the amendments ASID will be proposing based on their sincere efforts toward compromise with AIA for the registration of Interior Designers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy K. Mestas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy K. Mestas, PE, SE

The Honorable Gary Stevens  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton  
Speaker of the House

Alaska State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

### **Please Pass SB 73 Registration for Alaska Interior Designers**

I'm writing this letter to ask your support for SB 73, to **enhance protection of public life-safety** in Alaska's buildings, to **compete for federal work, boost our economy**, and **grow professional work force**.

#### **Why SB 73 is Good Policy for Alaskans. It:**

- **Protects public safety.** Regulates a currently unregulated interior design practice affecting public health, safety, and welfare in Alaska buildings.
- **Is Required to Compete for Federal Work.** I have periodically worked on US Department of Defense projects since 1988. America's largest government agency, DOD, now requires interior designers to be registered. Without Alaska registration, I must forfeit the work and revenue or become registered outside. SB 73 will keep the work, revenue, and registration in Alaska!
- **Bolsters our workforce; removes barriers to entry.** Enables educated, experienced interior designers who have passed a national exam to be registered and provide their scope of practice in Alaska's buildings. Allows non-registered designers to work under a qualified professional or in residential, single family to 4-plex. Eliminates unnecessary barriers of architectural oversight cost and time.
- **Expands the pool of qualified professionals.** Increases client choice and may help advance project schedules, particularly meaningful during Alaska's design professional shortage.
- **Attracts students studying outside back to Alaska.** Currently Alaska interior design graduates are starting careers in other states that offer registration even though they'd rather come home.
- **Does not affect the practice of architecture.** This bill does not alter or prevent any aspect of the architectural practice. Architects do not need to attain this registration.
- **Allows qualified interior designers to provide the scope of practice** they're educated, trained and tested to provide, stamp their permit drawings and take responsibility for their own work.

#### **Please support SB 73, it's Good for Alaska's Public and Good for Alaska's Economy!**

Respectfully,



Barbara L. Cash, FASID, IIDA, NCIDQ, LEED AP • 2265 Arcadia Drive, Anchorage, AK 99517 • [bcash@best-yet.net](mailto:bcash@best-yet.net)



Dear Senate Labor & Commerce Committee,

As an Alaska resident and practicing Civil Engineer, I'm writing to ask for your **support of Senate Bill 73: REGISTER INTERIOR DESIGNERS.**

I am passionate about protection of **public health, safety, and welfare** in Alaska, and **SB 73 advances these protections.** It establishes registration for the practice of interior design which will result in safer spaces and interior environments for the public.

SB 73 creates **clear practice definitions and rights** for interior designers, establishing greater **accountability for practitioners** within the built environment. It also **increases the professional workforce and consumer choice** for design services, entices qualified practitioners to work in Alaska, and **expands business opportunities** for small-business interior designers and firms.

To be clear, SB 73 does *not* apply to architects, designers of residential single-family to 4-plex structures, or interior designers working under direct supervision of a registered interior designer or architect.

Qualified interior designers attain a **bachelor's degree or equivalent in interior design** and must complete **supervised experience-based training** before they may sit for the nationally recognized, **11-hour NCIDQ Exam**; an exam that comprehensively tests on whole-building design and **occupant life-safety**. Interior designers are knowledgeable in areas **essential to public safety and protection**, including building codes, fire protection, fire safety and accessibility.

NCIDQ-certified interior designers are qualified and prepared to protect the public through responsible, autonomous interior design practice. The ability for interior designers to independently stamp their work is already allowed in 14 states and 2 federal jurisdictions.

Because this bill will greatly benefit Alaska residents and the state economy, **please support Senate Bill 73.** Thank you!

Sincerely,

David Gamez, P.E.  
5619 Big Bend Lp  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
907-444-5730  
dgamez8866@gmail.com

March 2, 2023

State of Alaska,  
Juneau, AK

To: The Honorable Gary Stevens,  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton,  
Speaker of the House

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

### **SB73 Professional Registration for Interior Designers**

Dear Alaska Legislators:

As leaders of one of Alaska's oldest architectural firms, we are writing to express our support of SB 73. SB 73 will expand professional design in Alaska by allowing NCIDQ certified interior designers to become registered, allowing them to take responsible charge for commercial interior renovations and similar projects.

We feel strongly that NCIDQ certified interior designers are qualified to perform this type of work. In fact, our own new office in Anchorage was designed and overseen by an NCIDQ certified interior designer. She developed the design, identified code and life safety issues, produced the plans and specs, coordinated with mechanical, electrical and structural engineers, and worked with Municipal plan reviewers to obtain a building permit. While this same work could have been completed by an architect, it is telling that a firm of mostly architects would choose an interior designer to oversee the type of project that this bill contemplates.

This bill will remove unnecessary barriers and will have many positive benefits to the State of Alaska:

- It will help us attract and retain design professionals, making Alaska one of the most attractive places in the nation to be an interior designer.
- It will increase consumer choice for design of interior construction projects.
- It will remove existing barriers that favor architects on projects for which NCIDQ certified interior designers are equally qualified to protect life, safety and welfare.

For far too long architects have resisted registration of interior designers, largely because it would allow interior designers to perform work that currently must be completed by an

architect. The Alaska Chapter of AIA continues to express opposition to registration of interior designers, even though AIA National has removed its opposition. As a member firm of AIA, we strongly disagree with the Alaska Chapter's opposition to SB 73. The Alaska Chapter is taking that stand without having polled its members to establish consensus. We know of several other architects who lead prominent Alaskan firms and strongly support registration of interior designers.

We urge the Alaska Legislature to pass SB 73 and remove existing barriers that unnecessarily favor architects over interior designers for work that both are equally qualified to perform.

With Kind Regards,



Brian Meissner, AIA



Jason Swift, AIA



Justin Scanio, AIA

ECI Alaska



To: The Honorable Gary Stevens,  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton,  
Speaker of the House

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

### **Please Support SB 73, Professional Registration for Interior Designers**

I am writing today to express my support of SB 73, and to urge your support of this bill as well. SB 73 proposes reasonable regulation to protect public health, safety, and welfare, by establishing professional registration for interior designers qualified by education, experience, and examination, to practice independently, with stamp and seal privileges, all within a limited scope of work for which they are specifically trained and tested to do. Below are some of the key points regarding SB 73 as well as the benefits of the bill to Alaskans.

**Interior designers of public-occupancy buildings directly impact public health, safety, and welfare in most aspects of their work.** Interior designers who have earned an accredited university degree, completed hands-on training, and successfully passed the internationally-recognized 3-part NCIDQ certification exam are well-qualified to understand and execute the following public safety design responsibilities:

- Design of interior non-bearing wall and ceiling configurations: occupancy class determination, occupant load analysis, exit analysis including number and location of internal exits/exit access, path of travel distance and clear width, accessibility within suites and to exits
- Design and specification of interior materials, furnishings, and fixtures, which require knowledge of the following: accessibility and egress clearances, infection mitigation and control, combustibility, flame spread, smoke propagation, material toxicity, and slip resistance
- Development of interior technical submissions (i.e., plans, specifications, contract documents) in compliance with applicable code, regulation, and guideline requirements; fire detection/suppression device location coordination and coordination with other engineering professions to provide a complete construction package

#### **SB 73 Registration for interior designers will:**

- Be voluntary: non-registered interior designers may work in the residential market (single to 4-plex, with height restrictions) or under the direct supervision of a registered interior designer or a registered architect for commercial work (public occupancy).
- Be compatible with all design professions: architects will be exempt from this registration and architects that wish to provide interior design services may continue to do so.

- Be considered self-funded through the existing AELS Registration Board fee structure with a minimal increase per license holder.
- Provide a professional stamp for interior non-bearing construction document permitting, giving registered interior designers direct responsibility for their own work which currently must be supervised and over-stamped by a registered architect.

**SB 73 Economic Benefits to Alaskans:**

- Expands consumer choice of qualified design professionals; encourages small business.
- Increases professional employment and salary opportunities in Alaska, attracting high-quality design talent to the state and helping to reduce the professional workforce gap.
- Encourages hiring Alaskans instead of “outside experts” for professional interior design.
- Encourages Alaskans earning interior degrees Outside to return home.

**Please support SB 73 Registration for Interior Designers** to protect public safety, expand consumer choice, and bring economic benefits to Alaska.

Informational video: [What Does an Interior Designer Actually Do?](#)

Sincerely,



**Kael Ladegard, PMP**

President | Senior Project Manager

(907) 240-2069 mobile

[www.AlignedAK.com](http://www.AlignedAK.com)

March 5, 2023

The Honorable Gary Stevens  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton  
Speaker of the House

Alaska State Capitol Building  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

**I am writing to ask you to pass SB 73.** I have practiced architecture since I became registered in 1976, and in Alaska since 1977. I founded my firm, RIM Architects, in Anchorage in 1986.

I understand that the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Alaska is opposing SB 73. This is self-serving, turf protecting. I am compelled as a designated Fellow of AIA, (FAIA) to voice my emphatic support for SB 73. **SB 73 will in no way diminish the responsibility or authority of architects. Quite the opposite, SB 73 will enhance our service.**

Designing buildings that are safe for the public requires the work of credentialed experts, registered to practice in their respective disciplines; structural, mechanical, electrical, civil engineering and landscape architecture. Qualified commercial interior designers have focused expertise in building interiors. They have more specialized, comprehensive life safety knowledge relating to fire, smoke, infection control and toxicity than many registered architects, including myself. **I want to be able to include Alaska registered professional interior designers as integrated members of our professional design teams for Alaska projects. This assures clients, the public and my firm that all life safety characteristics are thoroughly addressed by registered professionals of Alaska.**

**Commercial interior design is a specialized field of practice that is complimentary to the profession of architecture.** The public at large and my clients have benefitted from the closely integrated safety characteristics of our buildings through the expertise of commercial interior design.

**The Federal Government, DOD, requires registered Interior Designers. So should Alaska.**

**I ask you to support making buildings in Alaska as safe as possible, inside and out.**

**Please pass SB 73.**



Larry S Cash, FAIA, NCARB

2265 Arcadia Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99517

March 9, 2023  
State of Alaska,  
Juneau, AK

To: The Honorable Gary Stevens,  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton,  
Speaker of the House

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

### **SB73 Professional Registration for Interior Designers**

Interior designers who are qualified through education, experience and national examination to protect public safety in commercial buildings should be allowed to practice the full scope of commercial interior design and take responsibility for their own work. The professional interior design examination is recognized throughout Canada and the United States. It has been proven to test a candidate's knowledge on all aspects of design and particularly those related to the health, safety and welfare of the public within commercial buildings.

NCARB – the examination body for architectural licensing and CIDQ the international examination body for interior design certification recently completed an in-depth study of the similarities and differences of both exams. The Vice President of NCARB stated that “Both examinations have well established and rigorous procedures that must be met. And both architecture and interior design, while similar in requirements, are unique and distinct disciplines in practice and required knowledge. Both serve an important role in serving the health, safety and welfare within the built environment.” While the study is quite lengthy, there is a you tube video synopsis that is a broad-brush explanation of the study and samples of the outcomes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 0wvSvxrmjs>

With the complexity of our current built environments, educated, experienced, credentialed experts are needed in each of our fields, to protect public health and safety within our defined scope of practice. This bill in no way reduces the ability of any other profession within the architecture and engineering disciplines to practice within their defined scopes. It does provide consumers a choice to select a specialist in interior environments to provide professional services, and to take their project from design through permitting and construction within their more limited scope of practice.

All disciplines within the design and construction environment are currently experiencing staff shortages. With the realization of infrastructure funds coming to Alaska over the next five years, this bill offers an expansion of available professionals to independently complete projects in public buildings and expand the pool of other professions to keep the infrastructure projects on track.

Please vote in favor of advancing SB73 to protect the public health, safety and welfare, to recognize professional interior designers and to offer businesses a choice for their commercial design needs.

Sincerely,



ECI

Mary G. Knopf, FASID, NCIDQ

Interior Designer

9401 Arlene Dr

Anchorage, AK 99502

907.240.8964



March 20, 2023  
State of Alaska,  
Juneau, AK

To: The Honorable Gary Stevens,  
Senate President

The Honorable Cathy Tilton,  
Speaker of the House

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

### **SB73 Professional Registration for Interior Designers**

My name is Melissa Pribyl, I'm a born and raised resident of Anchorage Alaska, a commercial interior designer, and a partner at one of the Architecture and Design Firms here in Alaska.

SB 73 is very important to me. As an interior designer qualified through education, experience, and national examination to protect public safety in commercial buildings, I should be allowed to practice the full scope of commercial interior design and take responsibility for my own work. When you look at the timeline of design professions, (architects, engineers, landscape architects, land surveyors, etc.) you will find that interior designers are the newcomers, born in the 20<sup>th</sup> century out of necessity for a honed skill and knowledge set that compliments these disciplines to increase positive outcomes for our community and our environment. Our 21<sup>st</sup> century budgets and construction schedules need a team, a team of diverse individuals with specific education and skill sets that contribute to the success of the project as a whole. I am part of that educated team, alongside my fellow architects.

My firm brought on their first Commercial Interior Designer in 2015. Before that, they would do one of two things; they would contract out the material selection work to an interior designer who resided in Oregon, or they selected materials and colors after the construction documents were completed from a chain set of options provided by the contractor and design casework in shop drawings. Those in our firm that say they are "guilty" of this laugh when we bring our ideas on more than "just finishes" to the drawing table at the start of a project. As once a new hire to a startup architectural firm, they were "surprised" when I could answer questions pertaining to the international building code (IBC) regarding exiting and egress. Interior design is a direct arm to architecture. It is a subject matter that has direct resources for study, examination, and implementation. Architects know this, as they are also educated in the specialty. We are qualified to be recognized alongside architects for our knowledge in interior design and allow the public to be protected from individuals that have no education or examination to follow up their choices.

There are firms that are recognizing the need for diversity and inclusion in more ways than just the sex or race of an individual, but also in professional diversity. In 2016 I witnessed our firm

hire their first female architect in the 40 years of their existence and promote their first female interior designer to partner in 2018. I followed as partner in 2023. Since 2015 our interior design department has developed new vertical markets for our company and almost doubled our revenue stream.

SB 73 will expand consumer choice of qualified design professionals, encourage small businesses, increase professional employment and salary opportunities, encouraging high-quality design talent to remain or relocate to Alaska, and reduce the professional workforce gap. It will also encourage hiring Alaskans instead of “outside experts” for professional interior design, and support those earning interior design degrees outside our state to return home for professional registration, like me.

I know you have been presented with many facts in the past few weeks regarding this bill. I hope this perspective from an Alaskan business owner helps illustrate our need for diversity of registered professional services. Interior designers and the profession will continue to grow in numbers, grow in knowledge, and grow our economies while helping to create a healthy, safe, and beautiful built environment with our fellow Architects. [Please support SB 73](#) to protect public safety, expand consumer choice of qualified design professionals, and bring economic benefits to our great state of Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Pribyl, Principal at MCG Explore Design

12200 Shiloh Rd, Anchorage, AK 99516  
[mpribyl@exploredesign.com](mailto:mpribyl@exploredesign.com)

Informational video: [What Does an Interior Designer Actually Do?](#)

3/1/2023

The Honorable Gary Stevens      The Honorable Cathy Tilton  
Senate President                      Speaker of the House

Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau Alaska

Senate President Stevens and Speaker Tilton,

My name is Thomas Banks, Chief Executive Officer for the Council for Interior Design Qualification. I write to you today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 73, which establishes licensure of certified interior designers in Alaska and would increase protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare of the public.

CIDQ is the premiere certifying organization for interior design professionals. 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 (CIDs) share. CIDQ develops and administers the three-part NCIDQ Examination. 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. Most of our candidates hold bachelor's degrees or higher in interior design or a related field. In addition, each candidate must possess a minimum of two years of work experience gained under the supervision or sponsorship of a design professional. This combination of education, experience, and examination helps ensure minimal competency of our certificate holders, most of which practice in commercial, code-based environments like office buildings, hotels, hospitals, schools, etc.

The NCIDQ exam itself is a three part (IDFX, IDPX, Practicum), 11-hour examination that assesses the competency of candidates to protect the public through the practice of interior design. The exam assesses competency in several areas that affect public safety and are routinely addressed in interior design, like fire safety, ADA compliance, emergency egress, material flammability and toxicity, slip and fall risks, etc. The "blueprints" for each of our examination sections outlining the competencies being assessed appear on our website along with their relative scoring weight within each section. They include content areas such as Building Codes and Standards, Construction Drawings and Specification, Building Systems and Integration, and Programming and Site Analysis among others.

Legal recognition of interior designers as design professionals is necessary to protect the public from incompetent practice, which the exam cannot do on its own without state oversight. In addition to the public safety element, this bill is necessary to allow qualified professionals to practice to the full extent of their capabilities. In the absence of legal recognition, qualified interior designers are dependent upon other professional disciplines to approve their work; work which they have demonstrated by education, experience, and examination that they are competent to provide. State oversight of interior designers utilizing the NCIDQ Exam provides a means of competency assessment that offers the state and the public assurance that interior designers are qualified to practice

**225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 210, Alexandria, VA 22314**  
**202-721-0220**



independently and in a manner that protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The exam is used by every regulated jurisdiction in the United States except California as one of the requirements for state licensure, certification, or registration of interior designers. In the United States, interior design is currently regulated in 30 jurisdictions, 28 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Passing this legislation would ensure that interior designers that are registered with the state are qualified, eliminate bureaucratic red tape and barriers to entry into the interior design marketplace, lower construction costs and create greater consumer choice for Alaskans. CIDQ applauds the Alaska Legislature for considering this legislation, and we request your support for SB 73. If you have any questions about interior design or the NCIDQ exam, please do not hesitate to reach out to Matthew Barusch, CIDQ's Director of Government Affairs, at [mbarusch@cidq.org](mailto:mbarusch@cidq.org). We are happy to be a resource for the committee as it considered this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas B. Banks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Thomas Banks  
Chief Executive Officer  
Council for Interior Design Qualification

March 23, 2023

**T3 ALASKA<sup>LLC</sup>**

Attention: Legislature

Subject: SB73 – Registration Interior Designers



Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am writing in support of SB 73 for the registration of Interior Designers. I have worked in the design field for over 20 Years, I am a professional registered Electrical Engineer and one of the owners of T3 Alaska, a successful Electrical and Mechanical Engineer firm in Alaska.

I can speak with certainty that during the design process of buildings and/or renovations, it is imperative to have design professionals that work on a project to support the owners (or tenants) needs and expectations once complete. Interior Designers are critical to the process and provide guidance, direction and information that is unique to their expertise. Without them items often get missed to the detriment to the project and owner/tenant. As I registered design professional, I fully support the Bill.

Thank you again for your time and effort towards making this Bill a reality. If you have any questions or comments, please call me. 907-865-7900

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thomas C. Allen, P.E.  
Principal Electrical Engineer



March 15, 2023

The Honorable Gary Stevens, Senate President  
The Honorable Cathy Tilton, Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Capitol  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, Alaska, 99801

**RE: SB73 – Registration for Commercial Interior Designers**

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Tilton:

I am a licensed civil engineer and business owner in Anchorage writing in support of SB73, which implements licensure for commercial interior designers.

Commercial Interior Designers' work may involve building components and features that affect life safety issues, such as building space analysis, egress routing and fire ratings of walls, furnishings, and finishes. Registration of Commercial Interior Designers will improve public safety by providing assurance that the professionals doing this work have been qualified based on education, experience, and examination, like other design professionals. Registration also provides an enforcement mechanism in the unlikely event registrants fail to uphold public health, safety, and welfare.

Currently, construction documents affecting egress and fire ratings require a registered professional architect's seal and approval. Registering Commercial Interior Designers will enable those professionals, who are experts in their field, to prove their knowledge of the relevant safety regulations, practices, and guidelines and to seal and approve construction documents covering their scope of work. SB73 broadens the pool of professionals certified to do commercial interior design work and does not restrict registered professional architects from continuing to develop and sign interior design plans. SB73 does not apply to or limit residential work in single family homes up to 4-plex structures.

SB73 also includes a provision to expand the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors by two seats, to ensure continuous representation by electrical and mechanical engineers.

Thank you for your support of SB73.

Sincerely,

  
Will Webb, PE, PTOE

Member, Kinney Engineering, LLC  
Past President, Alaska Professional Design Council  
Resident of District 21-K

cc: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee