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May 5, 2023

The Honorable Jesse Sumner
Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support HB 159, Registration of Interior Designers

Dear Mr. Chair & Members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee:

I am writing to support passage of HB 159, Registration of Interior Designers. I am a registered Professional Civil Engineer and Structural Engineer and served for eight years on the Board of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, including two terms as its Chair. From that experience, I am aware that the only reason to license a profession is to protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that the practitioners have the three-legged stool of licensure: education, experience, and examination. We currently have that framework for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects. Interior designers work in the same field and should also be registered.

Interior Designers can do work that affects the public safety, whether that is code compliant exiting, fire walls, or flame spread of materials or meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. If they are qualified by the three-legged stool of licensure, they should be able to stamp their work, without going to an architect to approve their work. Adding Interior designers to professions governed by the AELS Board will allow more options to the public than are available now, as they will be able to employ either an architect or an interior designer to lay out or modify their interior spaces.

If you or any member of the committee has any questions about this bill or registering design professionals, in general, I am willing to attempt to answer them.

Respectfully,



Colin Maynard, PE, SE, F.NSPE

Cc: House Labor & Commerce Members