

May 6th, 2023

To: House Labor & Commerce
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

Subject: **Support for HB 159, Registration for Interior Designers**

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

I support HB 159 and encourage you to do as well. It is very important to me as a business owner of an Architectural and Interior Design Firm in the State of Alaska. Our firm MCG Explore Design supports over \$150 - 200M in design construction support every year for the last 30 years. Part of that support is the value of Interior Design professionals which are an integral for designing & building successful outcomes and supporting resilient communities. Why:

- Licensure and Registration of Interior Design professionals is essential to provide highly quality professional design services to our clients and holds them accountable as you would an Architect.
- As a successful business owner, I believe that Interior Design professionals are qualified to be recognized equally alongside Architects for their knowledge of interior design and need registration to close the loop on professional equality.
- Interior Design professionals qualified through education, experience, and national examination to protect public safety in commercial buildings should be registered and licensed to practice the full scope of commercial interior design in Alaska.
- In 2015, my firm MCG Explore Design hired our first Interior Design professional and it changed the landscape of our potential for delivering excellence in design services for our clients and community. Our Interior Design department has developed new vertical markets for our company and increased our revenue stream benefiting Alaska.
- HB 159 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.

Sincerely,
John T. Weir, Principal at MCG Explore Design

5200 Celtic Drive, Anchorage, AK 99516
jweir@mcgalaska.com

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