
From: Todd Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 9:30 AM
To: Sen. Matt Claman
Cc: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Senate Bill 73

Good morning Mr. Claman,

We actually met several years ago down in Juneau when I was visiting on behalf of State Farm. You and I share the same alma mater, Colorado College. I don't want to take up too much of your time, but I would like to at least like to let you know how disappointing the introduction of Senate Bill 73 is to me and my family. In fairness, I would like to give you the opportunity to explain the necessity of such regulation/oversight for an occupation that often amounts to paint selection, hard and soft finish choices, as well as other space planning consultation. Some of the most popular and successful interior designers in the country do not have a degree or official training in the field. They learned from designing their own properties and having a creative interest in the field. They are often self-taught and have a love for all things design related. Perhaps there is some risk I am unaware of that they are bringing to the table. However, most designers have no role in installation or fabrication. That is left to the architects and general or specialty contractors. My wife, Monique Jackson and her business partner obtained a business license, business insurance, as well as leased office space for their new interior design business Arctic Birch Interiors, est. December 2022. The reason they started their business last year was due to the lack of options in this space and the number of people who reached out to them for help before they had even established their business. Increasing the barrier of entry into this space does not seem to serve the Alaska consumer well, potentially reducing the number of designers where there is a shortage already.

If my family wasn't directly affected by this potential legislation, I recognize I probably wouldn't have even known about it. However, even if my wife decides not to participate in this occupation going forward, I still firmly believe this is not in the best interest of Alaskans and is an unnecessary obstacle being set up for new job creation and for improving the spaces Alaskans live and work in every day.

Respectfully,

Todd Jackson



Todd D. Jackson, Agent CLU, ChFC, CASL

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www.ak49insurance.com

If this communication is securities related, see the [additional disclosures](#)



PROPERTY DAMAGE AND LIABILITY DEPARTMENT

Thank you for choosing the Todd Jackson State Farm Agency!

Todd & Team

From: Andrew Schaar
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Sen. Matt Claman
Cc: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Senate Bill 73

Good Morning,

I am an active duty Air Force physician stationed at JBER. My wife, Bobbi Schaar, is the business partner of Monique Jackson that Todd has referenced. I agree with what Todd stated and share the same concerns. My wife has put her career on hold on several occasions while moving with my military assignments. I'm extremely proud of her for opening this business and serving Alaskans while following her passion. This has been a huge blessing for our family and to take this opportunity away from her for what seems to be unnecessary oversight is disappointing to say the least. I'm unaware of any risks her opinions on furniture and aesthetic choices pose her clients. Needless to say, if this bill were to pass and threaten my wife's brand new business, I would be extremely disappointed in the government I chose to serve for the past 12 years. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Andrew D. Schaar, MD
Major, USAF, MC
Staff Anesthesiologist
JBER, Anchorage AK
517-285-0272

From: Thomas Livingston
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 10:08 PM
To: Sen. Matt Claman
Subject: SB 73 Registration for Interior Designers

Senator Claman

I'm writing in reference to SB 73 Registration for Interior Designers.

Potential harm to consumers and the public is the primary, perhaps the sole, basis for the government's regulation of any occupation. When regulation is deemed necessary, great lengths must be taken to ensure that the licensing board and the regulations that are created to govern the occupation focus on consumer protection and safety. To justify this legislation, I've seen no evidence that supports any harm, significant or otherwise, to consumers in Alaska due to the unregulated practice of interior design. From a consumer's point of view where is there evidence of harm in the current laws that regulate building design that needs this legislation as a remedy? The proposed legislation strikes me as a solution to a problem that doesn't exist and that will create confusion, duplication and added regulatory and project costs.

The proposed legislation, SB-73, would license a group of individuals to provide health, safety and welfare (HSW) building design services; services that are already provided by licensed architects. This creates a duplication of licensed professionals and will cause confusion among code officials, clients and the public. There is little to no case law in existence to guide us with legal precedents in this endeavor. And, is there a record of liability insurance coverage to inform us of the risks posed by such legislation, and is E & O insurance even available to cover this newly expanded occupation? Segregating interior design responsibilities within a building creates ambiguity in code compliance when two separate licensed design professionals are authorized for the same activity. This legislation is vague regarding demarcation of the services of an interior designer and an architect. In my nearly fifty years of practice as an architect licensed in Alaska I know of no other licensed building design discipline that overlaps another discipline like this proposed statute would authorize.

The proposed legislation would regulate the practice of interior design with a Practice Act. In my reading (admittedly limited) I find only three states in the U.S. that currently have Practice Act regulation. And, perhaps tellingly, within the last few years Florida and Michigan repealed their statutes regulating the practice of interior design (I've not yet learned why). Over half the states in the country have a statute that acknowledges interior designers in the form of a Title Act. A Title Act could be a better approach if the Alaska Legislature wishes to provide recognition and definitions for well qualified interior design professionals.

As proposed, I do not support SB - 73. It is an ill-defined and un-needed piece of legislation that will cause confusion among the public, owners/clients, code officials and the building design profession. Perhaps a Title Act approach, pending the details of such legislation's language, would be more appropriate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Tom

Thomas W. Livingston, FAIA
Principal
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www.NvisionArchitecture.com

Making Quality Architecture Since 1975



American Institute of Architects, Alaska Chapter

April 10, 2023

To: Alaska Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
email: Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov
Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov
Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov
Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov
Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov
Senator.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov

Re: Opposition to SB 73 An act to register Interior Designers and Interior Design

Dear Senators,

We are the six architects who are members of the Interior Design Working Group that is meeting to address issues related to the proposed regulation of interior design in Alaska. We are **opposed** to the current version of SB73 and have been diligently working with the interior designers to revise the bill to address concerns of our organization, the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

The Working Group was originally proposed by the Alaska Board of Registration of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) at its May 2022 meeting. Interior designers testified at that meeting and voiced a preference for organizing the Working Group, and the Board agreed. The Working Group consists of architects from the AIA and interior designers from the American Society of Interior Design (ASID). The first meeting was held in July 2022. It has now held a total of 6 meetings with 19 hours of discussion. The last meeting was March 31, 2023 to develop amendments to SB73. We were pleased to have the bill sponsor, Senator Matt Claman participate in this Working Group meeting. The AIA's goal has been to develop changes to the bill that we could find acceptable enough to withdraw our opposition.

It is our position that SB73 is not ready for committee hearing until the Working Group completes its review and recommendations. At the end of the last meeting (just 10 days ago), there were several amendments that were unanimously agreed upon. However, there were also areas of the bill that continued to need work so it was agreed to hold another meeting, which has not yet been scheduled.

The AELS Board recently held two special meetings regarding SB73. It requested a status report from the Working Group, which we have attached. This illustrates some of the important issues that have been discussed about possible interior design regulation in Alaska. We would appreciate your consideration of postponing action on SB73 until the work of the Interior Design Working Group has been completed. **Without completion of such work, we urge you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 73.**

Sincerely,

Ryan Morse, Jessica Cederberg, Paul Baril, Catherine Fritz, Tim Conrad, Evelyn Rousso

Attachment: 3.13.23 Report to AELS Board

Cc: SB73 sponsor Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov; AIA Lobbyist dianneblumer@gmail.com

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Elke Gustafson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:14 AM
To: Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Matt Claman; Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.com
Subject: Designer Opposing SB73

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please oppose SB73 . We have been operating safely for 27 years and this bill would make continuing our work ,as is , illegal and punishable by law . It takes away the consumers choice about who they want to work with and is unnecessary.

Elke Mazzeo
Coordinators Interior Design
1600 A st Suite 300
Anchorage , Ak 99501
907.563.2220

April 24, 2023

To: Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Re: SB73

Dear Senators,

Advance without delay: the time is now to pass SB 73 Register Interior Designers

Thank you,

(Wet or electronic signature)

Name, profession
Home address
Phone number

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Greg Curney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:08 PM
To: Sen. Matt Claman
Subject: Opposition to (CS) SB 73

I oppose SB 73. It creates an unnecessary barrier to work in Alaska. It is not needed!

Thank you,
Greg Curney

Sent from my iPhone

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Catherine Fritz [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:08 PM
To: Konrad Jackson; Laura Achee; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: Robb Sylvan S (CED); Sen. Matt Claman; Neal Sara J (CED)
Subject: AELS Board Actions on SB73

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This morning the AELS Board acted on the following issues related to CS-D of SB73 and requested that these be forwarded immediately to the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee for today's hearing on the bill.

1. The Board does not recommend adding the profession of interior design to 08.48 (AELS Board).
2. If SB 73 is advanced in the legislature, the AELS Board offers the following recommendations to CS-D:
 - Remove all references in the bill to AELS Board make up (Section 1, 2, 3 and 38).
 - Remove item (15) of Section 27.
 - In Section 30, delete (B) and revise to meet the following: *"review of drawings and specifications of interior spaces made by regulatory agencies."*
 - In Section 37, revise to read as follows: *"Sec 37. TRANSITION: CURRENT INTERIOR DESIGNERS. Notwithstanding this Act, a person working as an interior designer before the effective date of this Act may continue to practice interior design in the state until 90 days after the effective date of regulations established in 12 AAC 36 or 2 years after the effective date of this Act, whichever comes first, at which time they must register if they wish to practice registered interior design as described in AS 08.48.341."*

Thank you,

Catherine Fritz, Chari
AELS Board
[REDACTED]



POSITION PAPER: CS-D SB73
Issued: August 2023

AIA Alaska OPPOSES (CS-D) SB73, “An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design...” as currently drafted and is actively working with the bill Sponsor and industry peers to provide amendments to improve this bill.

(CS-D) SB73 represents an unprecedented change in licensing regulation for Alaska’s design and construction industry. No other state has adopted a law that so broadly regulates interior design scope. Only 2 states regulate the practice of interior design similarly to SB73, whereas 25 states regulate by designating the title ‘Interior Designer’ to recognize advanced credentials. 23 states do not regulate interior design. Please see the attached map for a graphic display of US and Canadian legislation. AIA Alaska opposes regulating the practice of interior design but does not oppose regulating interior design through a Title Act.

Background: Architecture integrates a full range of interior and exterior systems to create a building. Architects perform required life-safety analyses for building permits, and they are legally responsible for the full team of design consultants. Interior design is a subset, or specialty field of architecture, and is limited to arranging interior spaces that do not require engineering or affect building-wide systems (eg. the exit system). Interior design has a valuable place in the design industry, but it does not warrant independent practice on life-safety project components, nor should interior designers be responsible for a project team.

SB73 limits who can practice interior design; it is at odds with Alaska’s labor shortages and is costly. The bill restricts certain types of work to only be performed by interior designers who possess NCIDQ qualifications. In 2023, there were only 21 active NCIDQ interior designers in Alaska. AIA Alaska and industry peers oppose limiting the practice to a few individuals. Interior designers without the NCIDQ certification also make valuable contributions to the industry and currently serve the public without compromising health and safety. If the interior design market is restricted to a few individuals, the cost of services can also be expected to rise. Alaskans should consider the cost of regulating a small group of people – AIA Alaska does not see enough benefit to the public to outweigh the state’s regulatory cost.

Current steps: AIA Alaska continues to request meetings during the interim with interior designers and the bill Sponsor, Senator Claman, to offer amendments to SB73 that will maintain public health and safety in all of Alaska’s interior building environments.

At its May 10, 2023 meeting, the Alaska Board of Registration of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) voted to oppose adding interior design to its responsibilities under AS 08.48, while also offering specific recommendations to improve this concerning bill. AIA Alaska supports the AELS Board recommendations, however, we remain concerned that the bill still overreaches. There simply is no documented need for the regulation of interior design in Alaska.

Questions and discussions are welcome and encouraged!
Please contact **AIA Alaska (907) 276-2834** or **contact@aiaalaska.org**

Doniece Gott

From: Ken Alper
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 2:41 PM
To: Doniece Gott
Subject: FW: SB 73 Opposition

Ken Alper
Senate Finance Committee Aide
Office of Sen. Donny Olson
465-8163

From: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 1:38 PM
To: Ken Alper <Ken.Alper@akleg.gov>
Subject: FW: SB 73 Opposition

From: Jobe Bernier <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 1:01 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kelly Merrick <Sen.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>
Cc: Ramona Schimscheimer <RSchimscheimer@asrcenergy.com>; Cederberg, Jessica <Jessica.Cederberg@UICCS.com>
Subject: SB 73 Opposition

Honorable Senate Finance Committee:

As an AIA Alaska Member and a Registered Architect in the State of Alaska for the past 9 years, I am writing in OPPOSITION of Senate Bill 73 as currently written.

I have deep respect for interior design professionals, however there is no evidence that SB73 is necessary for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public –there exists no problem to solve. This proposed legislation is unnecessary and confusing and would not protect the consumer or increase public safety. In fact, it will limit consumer choices in selecting interior designers because SB73 restricts the practice to only those persons who have advanced education, and experience, and have passed an examination. There are fewer than 25 people in Alaska who hold this credential, so this bill opens the likelihood of more out-of-state practitioners becoming licensed than in-state practitioners. The current bill as written does not really support a local in-state workforce.

As an architect, my work integrates many different interior and exterior systems to design a full building. Architects are typically the prime consultant for public projects, and responsible for the life-safety analysis documents, as well as the coordination of all sub-consultant disciplines. While respectable, interior design is limited to arranging interior spaces and choosing materials that are non-structural and are not substantively part of the building's overall life safety. I value the expertise of interior designers, as well as many other specialists who contribute to building designs, but they should not

lead life-safety related projects, especially those with multiple disciplines like mechanical or electrical engineering that have impacts beyond the *interior* of a building.

If SB73 moves forward, I offer the following comments and suggestions:

- I support limiting Interior Design scope of practice to non-life-safety elements. I oppose allowing any life-safety and code analysis drawings to be stamped by Interior Designers for building permits.
- I oppose Sec. 29 that modifies (a) 8 of AS 08.48.331. The existing statute allowing anyone to alter or repair a building if the work does not impact HSW should remain.
- I oppose Sec 29 that adds (15) to AS 08.48.331 (a). This is redundant and confusing. There is no need to specifically call out persons who design kitchen and bath services, as anyone is already allowed certain exemptions in this section.
- I oppose the cost of developing Interior Design regulations being passed on to existing AELS Board licensees. The costs should be borne by the affected Interior Design licensees.

Only two states in the US currently regulate the practice of interior design in a manner that is similar to the "Practice Act" that is proposed in SB73: Louisiana and Nevada. Approximately 27 states allow Interior Designers to hold a Title that distinguishes their advanced education, experience, and examination from others. I am not opposed to a similar 'Title' regulation for Alaska, if the legislature feels that some type of regulation is needed, and it does not restrict the practice of interior design to those without advanced credentials.

If SB73 is allowed to pass as a Practice Act then it sets a strange precedent for many other professions in terms of life safety. Should a hairdresser be allowed to also practice acupuncture simply because they are already trained with sharp objects? Should a chiropractor be allowed to practice medicine because they have knowledge of the human body? Should unlicensed paralegals be allowed to do the work of licensed attorneys? Should a general contractor also be allowed to practice architecture because of their construction knowledge? If anyone wishes to practice the work of another licensed profession, they are welcome to do so after they have attained the proper training and licensing rather than through lobbying.

jobe paul bernier, aia, ncarb
associate principal architect

Nvision ARCHITECTURE, INC.

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

PH [REDACTED] FAX [REDACTED]



**WHITE PAPER: SB73 & HB159
RE: FEDERAL PROCUREMENT
OF INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES
Issued: February 20, 2024**

Competing for federal contracts does not require professional registration of interior designers. While some federal agency solicitations encourage or require minimum qualifications of interior designers, there is **no requirement for state registration** (aka license to practice interior design). The Alaskan interior designers that are promoting SB73 and HB159 already have the credentials to work on federally funded military projects, and many have such projects in their portfolios.

"The Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) are a joint effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. UFGS are for use in specifying construction for the military services. The UFC applies to all agencies of the Department of Defense (DoD) and their contractors that prepare Structural Interior Design (SID) and Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) design packages for all DoD-owned facilities. These criteria are applicable in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, United States (U.S.) territories and possessions."

See complete UFGS at https://www.wbdg.org/FFC/DOD/UFC/ufc_3_120_10_2018_c2.pdf

Below are excerpts from the UFGS that state the qualifications of interior designers who wish to compete for applicable federal contracts. Also included below are the elements of building design that are typically practiced by interior designers.

What are the minimum interior designer qualifications to compete for contracts?

UFGS SECTION 2-2 INTERIOR DESIGNER QUALIFICATIONS.

"Design and review must be performed by professional interior designers or architects with significant interior design experience. Qualification of designers is based on education, experience and examination. Interior designers or architects must have completed a program accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) or equal accreditation program of academic training in interior design."

"For contracted interior design services, the interior designer or architect must also have attained National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) certification or state licensure, certification or registration and must not be affiliated with a furniture dealership, vendor or manufacturer."

What is Structural Interior Design (SID)? Note that SID does not, by definition below, include any life safety or structural system aspects of the building (such services are typically provided by architects and engineers).

UFGS SECTION 1-5.1 Structural Interior Design (SID).

"The SID includes building-related design elements and components generally part of the building itself, such as walls, ceilings, floor coverings, primary window treatments (blinds, shades and drapery hardware), signage and built-in casework... In addition, the interior designer must determine the desired interior finish materials based on the respective aesthetic, durability and maintenance qualities, and characteristics applicable to each space within the facility."

Questions and discussions are welcome and encouraged! Please contact AIA Alaska, attention: Jessica Cederberg, President (907) 227-4943 or contact@aiaalaska.org



POSITION PAPER: SB 73
Issued: March 22, 2024

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) of Alaska OPPOSES SB73, "An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design..." as currently drafted.

The AIA has worked diligently with the SB73 Sponsor to modify SB73 to make it acceptable to the architectural community, but these efforts have failed because of the Sponsor's opposition to changes of substance.

The bill is excessively broad and fails to create a "lane" that can be clearly understood as the legal limits of practice. For example, Section 30 of the bill, item (24) reads, "the practice of registered interior design means, "(A) professional service or creative work in the design of interior spaces." This broad definition invites unqualified practice especially in fire and life safety systems, which, in turn, is a direct threat to public safety.

This bill unnecessarily restricts the practice for interior design, creating "have" and "have-nots" among interior designers. It serves only 21 Alaskans with the qualifications to become registered interior designers, while closing out dozens, if not hundreds, of other Alaskans who provide competent services and will no longer be able to be known to their loyal clients as Interior Designers. The bill attempts to allow persons without the NCIDQ certification to continue to practice, but it does not address the fact that it will create a class of people who have privilege and access above others who are equally qualified and capable.

SB 73 represents an unprecedented change in licensing for the design and construction industry and is the only bill like this in the United States. No other state has adopted a law with similarly broad interior design scope, and only two states have any laws restricting the practice of interior design.

- There are no threats to the health, safety, and welfare of the public that the proposed legislation would resolve.*
- No other state in the country has a comparably onerous law in place, and some jurisdictions have removed interior design regulations after legal challenges.*
- Carrying out these regulations would be expensive and complicated to implement, increase costs to consumers, reduce access to basic design services statewide, and benefit only a very small number of interior design business owners.*
- Alaska's regulatory board (AELS Board) that is designated in this bill to regulate the interior design profession has voted in opposition of including interior design under their purview.*
- Alaskan architects, engineers, contractors, regulators, and building suppliers who are informed on these bills describe them as unnecessary and harmful to the overall design and construction industry in Alaska.*

For all of these reasons, and more that have been expressed to the legislature over the past 4 years, we urge that you protect the excellent safety record of buildings in Alaska and maintain fair access to design services for the public by **opposing the special interest legislation of SB73.**

Questions and discussions are welcomed!

Please direct any questions to: AIA Alaska, attention Jessica Cederberg, 2024 AIA Alaska President
phone: (907) 227-4943 or email: contact@aiaalaska.org

March 22, 2024

Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov
Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov
Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov
Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov
Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov
Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov
Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov

Dear Senators,

I am writing in opposition of SB 73, a bill to regulate interior design and interior designers.

I recently completed 8 years of service on the Alaska Board of Registration of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS). While I have been authorized by the AELS Board to continue to speak to the legislature of the Board's actions regarding this bill (and companion HB 159), this letter reflects my personal position only.

I have been an active part of many discussions about possible regulation of interior design for over 5 years. During the past 1.5 years, I have served on the Interior Design Working Group, a group that was initiated by the AELS Board and consists of both architects and interior designers. For the first six months, our group analyzed interior design regulation in other states, considered the needs for such regulation in Alaska, and, with the help of AK Division of Professional Licensing staff, studied three possible models for interior design regulation, if such regulation was deemed necessary.

Without knowledge of the Working Group, SB 73 was introduced in February 2023. The bill did not (and still, does not) incorporate a regulatory framework that is acceptable to the architects of the Working Group. Over the past year, the architects, as well as the Alaska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and many in allied industries (eg. engineers, construction, AELS Board) have taken every possible opportunity to recommend changes to SB 73 that would be in the best interest of the state's general public and design/construction industries. **SB 73's Sponsor has declined to consider all amendments that would resolve the onerous nature of the bill. The architects of the Working Group do not support this bill.**

This bill unnecessary – our current regulation of design professionals works well and interior designers are successfully working around the state, both independently and in collaboration with architects and engineers. There is nothing broken that needs to be fixed – the public is safe and well served.

The vast majority of services performed by interior designers are not related to the health and safety of the public. While they have many excellent skills that add value to design, their work does not rise to the responsibility and liability to the public that is undertaken by other design professions that are regulated by the State. Interior design does not need to complicate the existing regulated professions in statute 08.48 (AELS Board), nor does the field of interior design bring any needed perspective to the AELS Board.

My request to you is that if you feel that interior design needs to be regulated, please reject SB 73 and work with the architects, engineers, contractors, and regulators of Alaska to address concerns. There are at least two options for regulation of interior designers that are different than SB 73 that would be supported by Alaska's architects and would be consistent with the majority of states who regulate this industry.

Alaska currently has an excellent record of building safety and no examples of actual or perceived threats to public health, safety, or welfare due to the current lack of interior design regulation. **Consumers have not requested this legislation. Rather, it has been promoted by a handful of interior designers who will financially benefit from its passage.** In 2023, only 21 Alaskans held the credential required to become a registered interior designer under this bill. Additionally,

- No other state in the country has a comparably onerous law in place, and some jurisdictions have repealed interior design laws after legal challenges.
- Carrying out these regulations would be expensive and complicated to implement, increase costs to consumers, reduce access to basic design services statewide, and negatively impact a large number of people who currently perform interior design services.
- **Alaska's licensing board (AELS Board) that is designated in both HB 159 and SB 73 to regulate the interior design profession has opposed adding interior design to their duties. Further, the AELS Board has suggested changes to SB73 that have been ignored.**

I urge you to oppose SB 73. I am available to answer questions or provide additional information about this topic, including draft legislation of alternatives to SB 73 that would be acceptable to Alaska's architectural profession.

Thank you, sincerely, for your time on this matter and for the important work you do for our state.

Catherine Fritz, AIA, NCARB

c: Representative Sara Hannan, Dianne Blumer

Doniece Gott

From: Dianne Blumer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2024 1:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fwd: HB73

Begin forwarded message:

From: "ncp@gci.net" <ncp@gci.net>
Date: March 22, 2024 at 5:16:59 PM AKDT
To: "House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov" <House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Jesse.Sumner@akleg.gov" <Representative.Jesse.Sumner@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Justin.Ruffridge@akleg.gov" <Representative.Justin.Ruffridge@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Mike.Prax@akleg.gov" <Representative.Mike.Prax@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov" <Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Stanley.Wright@akleg.gov" <Representative.Stanley.Wright@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Ashley.Carrick@akleg.gov" <Representative.Ashley.Carrick@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov" <Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>, "representative.alyse@akleg.gov" <representative.alyse@akleg.gov>, "dianneblumer@gmail.com" <dianneblumer@gmail.com>

Dear House Labor and Commerce Members,

As an Alaska Resident who works in the custom home industry the past 50 years, I am writing to ask that you do not support the passage of SB 73: An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design.

- There is no evidence presented that SB 73 will solve a problem that at this time does not exist.

- This proposed legislation is unnecessary and confusing and would not protect the consumer or increase public safety.

- I do not believe that current regulation of building design and engineering should be changed, the existing restricted scope of work for architects and engineers should remain as they are.

- I oppose the cost of Interior Design regulation being passed on to existing licensees. I support a regulation fee structure that is borne by the affected Interior Design licensees.

Based on the above comments I urge you to OPPOSE the passage of Senate Bill 73.

Respectfully yours,

N. Claiborne Porter Jr. AIA, NCARB