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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

September 22, 2025

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SEP 22 2025

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority vested in me by Article II, Section 15, of the Alaska Constitution, I have vetoed the following bill:

CSSSSB 54(FIN)

“An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design; relating to project costs for the construction, enlargement, or improvement of airports; extending the termination date of the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; relating to the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; establishing requirements for the practice of registered interior design; relating to the practice of architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, and registered interior design; relating to the scope of the certification requirements for architects, engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, and registered interior designers; relating to immunity for design professionals; relating to the cost of construction for recreation centers; relating to liens for labor or materials furnished; relating to the procurement of landscape architectural and interior design services; relating to the cost of construction of safe water and hygienic sewage disposal facilities in villages; and providing for an effective date.”

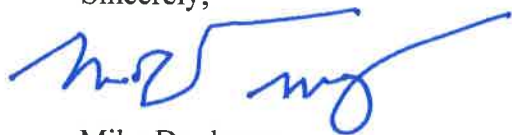
SB 54 goes well beyond a routine extension of the AELS Board. SB 54 would remove certified installers from most residential wastewater work and restrict them to only very small commercial systems. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation warns that this change would halt planned installations, force many small systems to be routed to licensed professional engineers, and add roughly \$1,000 to \$2,000 per system, with the sharpest impacts in rural Alaska where engineers are scarce. That means higher costs, longer waits, and fewer homes and businesses getting sanitation.

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The bill would also repeal AS 36.30.270(e) and force qualifications-based selection only for design-build procurements, barring any consideration of price. Eliminating competitive pricing in design-build will drive up project costs and reduce flexibility across state construction.

Finally, SB 54 expands the AELS Board to thirteen members and creates a new licensure track for "registered interior designers." Interior design is not a regulated practice in Alaska today; the bill does not define "interior design," and there is no public-safety rationale for creating a new title and bureaucracy. The expansion increases cost and confusion without a demonstrated benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure