

Submitter: John Flynn
On Behalf Of: Oregon Chapter American Institute of Architects
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2141

My name is John Flynn and I am the current President of the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, a professional organization consisting of over 1,500 registered architects practicing in Oregon. I am writing on behalf of all our members to express our opposition to HB 2141, currently before the House Commerce Committee.

Although we recognize that Commercial Interior Designers are a valuable part of the design community, HB 2141 conflates their role to that of the architect. Architects practice under the strictures of ORS 671 and OAR 806. HB 2141 inserts Commercial Interior Designers into the practice areas that the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners uses to regulate the practice of architecture. In effect, the bill, by defining interior design practice changes within ORS 671, changes the practice area of architecture.

I (and other members of AIA Oregon) have participated in several work sessions with the proponents of this bill, members of the Oregon Chapter of the International Interior Design Association, to craft a compromise bill that would create a distinct definition of commercial interior design, different from architecture listed activities and regulated by their own administrative body. I believe that such a bill would provide clarity to the general public and aid building code officials by establishing parameters for the practice of commercial interior design. HB 2141 does none of this.

I urge the House Commerce Committee to send this bill back to its proponents with the directive to work with those parties directly affected by the current proposal – architects, building code officials, and state agencies that regulate professional design practice – to craft a bill that all can support.

Thank you.

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