

March 25, 2025

ATTN: House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: IIDA Oregon Stance on HB 2141

Esteemed Committee Members,

The IIDA Oregon Chapter Board of Directors submits this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2141-1**, the forthcoming amended bill. This support comes on behalf of our full 30-person Board and our broader membership of over 250 Commercial Interior Design professionals across Oregon.

We have worked closely with AIA Oregon to shape the amended language and are confident that, once published by Legislative Counsel, we will have a version that **all stakeholders can support**. This rare alignment reflects the deep respect and collaboration between our professions.

Commercial Interior Designers are already allowed under Oregon law (ORS 671.030) to submit non-structural interior work for permit. **But because we are not formally recognized in statute, building officials interpret this inconsistently.** Permit drawings are often rejected unless stamped by a “registered design professional”—a term that doesn’t currently include us, despite our education, experience, and passage of the NCIDQ exam. HB 2141-1 **clears up this ambiguity** by formally recognizing Commercial Interior Designers and ensuring our technical expertise is consistently accepted across jurisdictions statewide.

This bill does **not expand our scope**, but it does provide long-overdue recognition and accountability through a **voluntary registry**. It supports public safety, improves permitting clarity, and reflects the real work Commercial Interior Designers do every day—designing inclusive restrooms, selecting fire-safe materials, ensuring ADA accessibility, and supporting occupant health and well-being in the places where **millions of Oregonians live, work, heal, and learn.**

HB 2141-1 is also an economic development bill. It supports women (83% of our profession), empowers small business owners, and helps retain Oregon-trained talent. With 30 states already recognizing Commercial Interior Designers—and five passing similar legislation in the last two years—Oregon has the opportunity to lead, not lag behind.

We respectfully urge your **yes vote** on HB 2141-1.

Sincerely,

The IIDA Oregon Chapter Board of Directors

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