

Submitter: Sarah MacDonald
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2141

I, Sarah MacDonald, urge the Oregon State Legislature to pass House Bill 2141-1, establishing the Registered Commercial Interior Design Title Act to recognize, protect, and enhance the role of Commercial Interior Designers in Oregon.

As a graduate of the University of Oregon School of Architecture, BARCH '00, I witnessed interior design students work with as much rigor as the architecture students. Much of the education overlaps, although specializes in ways that compliment other design and construction disciplines, yet I have an opportunity to become a licensed architect and they do not have an equivalent opportunity. With the rise of social media, reality design tv, and influencers, there are now many people who claim to be interior designers without professional training. Time is overdue for us to separate the professionals from the wannabes.

Now, with over twenty five years of professional experience in architecture, design, and construction, I can say that the rigor of interior designer's work has been consistent. Professional Commercial Interior Designers are a critical partner in creating successful, code-compliant projects at all scales. They bring a layer of expertise that is unique to their skillset and education.

As a profession, Commercial Interior Design, has been largely led by women. This is an opportunity to show support for and lend credibility to their incredible work. Doing nothing at this time is in line with stating support for past injustices, often rooted in sexism and discrimination. It is time for our professional communities and the State of Oregon to acknowledge the importance of this profession, offering protections and economic opportunities that will come with formal recognition.