



May 4, 2020

Representative Michael Freiberg
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
State Office Building, Room 509
St. Paul, MN 55155-1232

Representative Kristin Bahner
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
State Office Building, Room 525
St. Paul, MN 55155-1232

RE: Omission of "Certified Interior Designers" in HF 4605

Dear Representatives Freiberg & Bahner:

My name is Bryan Soukup, and I represent the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and our nearly 600 Minnesota members and member companies. I write to you today to commend your work on HF 4605, to suggest a critical amendment, and to offer ASID as a resource during the legislative process and on future initiatives concerning construction and design.

The American Society of Interior Designers traces its roots back more than 80 years and serves the full range of the interior design profession and practice through the Society's programs, networks, and advocacy. Our nearly 25,000 nationwide members represent individuals of all specialties, including workplace, healthcare, retail and hospitality, education, institutional, and residential practice, students, and corporate industry partners. We spend approximately 90% of our lives in interior environments, so our members use evidence-based and human-centric design to affect comfort, accessibility, safety, wellness, and sustainability. Much more than just the aesthetic, our designers showcase the impact of design through the creation of interior construction elements and spaces for where we live, work, play, and heal using data, science, building codes, and regulatory standards.

Though HF 4605 rightly enables localities to accept documents from licensed architects, engineers, or landscape architects via electronic communication, facsimile, or mail, Section 1(a)4 omits Minnesota "Certified Interior Designers."

Under Minnesota Statute Section 326.12 Sub 3:

Each plan, drawing, specification, plat, report, or other document which under sections 326.02 to 326.15 is prepared by a licensed architect, licensed engineer, licensed land surveyor, licensed landscape architect, licensed geoscientist, or *certified interior designer* must bear the signature of the licensed or certified person preparing it, or the signature of the licensed or certified person under whose direct supervision it was prepared.

Therefore, by not referencing certified interior designers in HF 4605, localities will not be able to accept interior design plans, specifications, and reports by electronic, mail, or facsimile submission. This omission will cripple our members' ability to conduct business by limiting their means of obtaining



needed building permits during the COVID-19 crisis and may put our members' lives in danger if they are required to submit design and construction plans in-person.

ASID and our Minnesota members respectfully request that you amend your bill, at the earliest possible opportunity, to include "Certified Interior Designers" in Section 1(a)4.

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan J. Soukup", is centered below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bryan J. Soukup, Esq.
Vice President, Government & Public Affairs
American Society of Interior Designers
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