

May 1, 2020

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

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

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

Dear Representatives Bahner and Freiberg:

My name is Emily Kelly, and I represent the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) and our nearly 500 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 IIDA as a resource during the legislative process and on future initiatives concerning construction and design.

The International Interior Design Association has been serving our nearly 15,000 nationwide members for over 25 years. Our members work within all types of design specialties, including public spaces like workplace, healthcare, retail, hospitality, education, and institutional. 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 aesthetic decorators, 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.

IIDA 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 that reads "Emily Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Kelly
Director of Advocacy and Legislative Affairs
International Interior Design Association (IIDA)