



Date: March 2, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment (“Committee”)

Subject: Vote YES on Senate Bill 714 at Committee Hearing on March 3, 2023

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 714, the **sunset extension for the State Board of Certified Interior Designers** (“Board”). We write today on behalf of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) to ask that you vote YES on Senate Bill 714, thus continuing the Board’s operations through July 1, 2034 and maintaining the important regulation of the interior design profession in Maryland.

Maintaining regulation of Certified Interior Designers **helps protect the health, safety, and welfare** of building occupants and the public. Certified Interior Designers are trained in areas of ADA-compliance, fire safety, egress planning, and more -- all of which ensure that end users’ safety and well-being is protected in these code-regulated spaces.

Certification for qualified interior designers also allows practitioners to compete more freely in the open market, which **increases consumer choice** and reduces client costs and project times. This **reduced bureaucracy** keeps Maryland’s economy competitive by allowing Certified Interior Designers to differentiate themselves professionally. Interior design regulation also **incentivizes students** and young professionals to stay in or come to Maryland to start their careers in the practice of certified interior design.

Because Senate Bill 714 ensures that the Board may continue to oversee Certified Interior Designers which is good for public health and safety plus helpful to the state’s economy, we ask that you **vote YES on SB 714**.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lauren Earley, Associate Director of Government & Public Affairs (ASID) at learley@asid.org or Marci Merola, Director of Advocacy (IIDA), at mmerola@iida.org.