



May 18, 2017

Dear Representatives of the House Regulatory Reform Committee,

The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina (ACEC/NC) has significant concerns with HB 590, Interior Design Profession Act. The measure creates an entirely new regulated design profession.

ACEC/NC, which represents over 200 engineering firms throughout the state of North Carolina, many of whom practice in the building environment, feels this bill will cause confusion as to whether all life/safety issues have been addressed on regulated building projects. The bill carves out a niche under a building project for interior designers, which has traditionally resided with engineers and architects.

The engineering community has a long-established relationship with the architectural community in collaborating on all the elements that go into a building project. Architects are educated and trained to lead in the organization of all the design discipline documentation. We are not confident that interior designers have the necessary education and training to lead the design and construction team on interior architecture projects.

Interior architecture requires the knowledge of how an interior relates to critical building systems: plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and fire protection. Only the professional education, training, and experience of an Architect, in collaboration with the engineers experienced in these systems, can assure the orchestration of these components into a cohesive design. Interior designers are not trained to the same standard as Architects or Engineers in managing engineered systems to assure occupant welfare.

While it's important to note that interior designers would have limited sign and seal authority under HB 590, in the absence of an architect, they will be called upon by their project owner to lead in building plan coordination from other disciplines (mechanical, electrical, plumbing engineers) and they are not trained in these disciplines.

Thank you for your consideration of our issues. I am happy to speak with you further about this matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Smith, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

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ACEC/NC Executive Director and Lobbyist  
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