



October 22, 2018

The Honorable Jim Langevin
2077 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Re: American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Letter of Support, H.R. 6915, the Building Efficiently Act of 2018

Dear Representative Langevin:

My name is Bryan Soukup and I represent the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and our Rhode Island-based members. I write to you today to commend your work on H.R. 6915 and offer our support.

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 worldwide 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 spaces, so our members use evidence-based and human-centric design to affect comfort, accessibility, safety, wellness, and sustainability. Our members showcase the impact of design on the human experience and the value interior designers provide using data, science, building codes, and regulatory standards to design better spaces for where we live, work, play, and heal.

When an ASID interior designer begins the design of a commercial space, such as an office building or hotel, or a residential home, energy efficiency and reducing energy costs is one of their primary goals. Interior designers study the impact of codes, standards, furnishings and fixtures on energy efficiency and employ that knowledge daily in their practice. The inclusion of a certified interior designer on residential and commercial design renovation and construction projects increases the potential that energy efficiency of interior spaces will be a primary consideration for the project.

Products selection is an important way to improve energy efficiency in structures and interior designers specify products in nearly nine out of ten projects in both commercial and residential space. For example, the installation of ceiling fans improves the circulation of cool air during summer reducing the use of air conditioning. In the winter, occupants can turn the fan blades in the opposite direction, which recirculates the warm air that has risen to the ceiling thereby decreasing home heating costs. The selection of interior doors, partitions and window coverings also contributes to energy efficiency. In a large, open space, the installation of a slider or barn door allows for isolating smaller spaces when desired, thus increasing energy efficiency. Before covering up windows, interior designers consider alternatives to retain natural light. For instance, using window film, which lets natural light through while blocking heat. Moreover, interior designers work with artificial lighting using LEDs, halogens and compact fluorescent light bulbs that save energy and last longer, motion sensors that turn lights on and off when certain spaces are in use, smart home devices, and dimming controls that extend the bulb life saving time, money, and resources. These are just a few of the design practices not always considered by other professionals, so including properly credentialed interior designers throughout the design, construction, and renovation processes is crucial.



Because of ASID's commitment to sustainable design and energy efficient homes and other spaces, we are proud to support H.R. 6915.

If possible, I'd appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your Staff to discuss our support for your Bill and the role interior designers play in energy efficiency and other policy areas important to you and your constituents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments on H.R. 6915. The American Society of Interior Designers is honored to partner with your Office and the Congress to serve as a resource on issues impacting building sustainability and occupant health, safety, and welfare in our interior environments. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan J. Soukup", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bryan J. Soukup, Esq.
Vice President, Government & Public Affairs
American Society of Interior Designers
202-675-2352 - bsoukup@asid.org
1152 15th St. NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20005