



August 27, 2019

Representative Bobby L. Rush
2188 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-1301

RE: The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) letter of support for HR 4061 - Blue Collar and Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019

Dear Representative Rush:

My name is Bryan Soukup and I represent the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and our nearly 25,000 members and member companies. I write to you today to commend your work on HR 4061, extend our support for its passage, and to offer ASID as a resource during the legislative process and on future initiatives concerning energy efficiency.

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 aesthetic decorators, our designers showcase the impact of design through the creation of interior architectural elements and spaces for where we live, work, play, and heal using data, science, building codes, and regulatory standards.

Interior designers are on the frontlines of creating energy efficient communities. 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 Council for Interior Design Qualification-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. Our professionals can use this knowledge to impact the design education programs referenced in your bill, which will help provide students with the skills necessary for jobs in energy-related industries.

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. From industrial washing machines in hotels to lighting in convention centers, interior designers are responsible for selecting our public infrastructure's potential energy-savers. 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 space devices, and dimming controls that extend the bulb life saving time, money, and resources.

In the home, 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.

These are just a few of the design practices not always considered by other professionals, so it's crucial to adequately educate interior design students and to include properly credentialed interior designers throughout the design, construction, and renovation processes.

Due to ASID's commitment to sustainable design and energy efficient homes and other spaces, we are proud to support HR 4061.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments on HR 4061. 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, accessibility, and occupant health, safety, and welfare in our interior environments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan J. Soukup", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

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