

Dear.....(Representative) (Senator)

I appreciate your support for proper and reasonable regulation of all professions with concern for all the citizens of Florida, not just those here in the District. As a licensed interior designer practicing in Florida, I am part of a Florida regulated profession, with regulations defining and limiting the practices of interior design and architecture with regulatory language. I believe there have been some issues that perhaps have been brought to your attention about these regulations, relating to non-residential projects only. Only recently the interior design coalition (IDAF) spent considerable time and money to dispel some of those concerns and to validate that no restriction is made on any person or business selling items for any residential or non-residential project in Florida, and for their use of an installation plan to install those loose furnishings, pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 481. No regulatory license is required. Further validated, there is and has never been any restraint of trade in selling anything for any project. Wisely the 1994 Florida Legislature restricted the planning of spaces created with walls, doors, panels or partitions to Florida licensed design professionals. Planning of such requires knowledge of the Florida Building Codes, and local codes, including accessibility, fire safety, and ingress and egress requirements, as well as lighting plans--all to create the best environment for the health, safety and welfare of the Public and users here in Florida.

Today I am one of 12,647 licensed interior designers and architects working in 10,679 businesses licensed for the practices of interior design and/or architecture who will be again contributing \$2,023,375.00 in regulatory fees at this biennium renewal on February 28, 2009. Also today, the process to become a licensed design professional in Florida licensure remains available to those who wish to become so licensed. There are 18 (9 Public institutions) and 24 degrees (Associate, Bachelor, and graduate) available in Florida for the study of interior design alone.

I appreciate your efforts at this most difficult economic time regarding the major issues of budget and funding, and fully understand how much time those issues are taking of your valuable time. I would be happy to speak with you or one of your Aides regarding your concerns on any current issues about interior design and architectural regulations, and to separate fact from rumor and fiction. One rumor I can dispel is that the Prosecutor for the regulatory Board of Architecture and Interior Design has been targeting small businesses, and especially small office businesses for prosecution. The fact is that in the past five years only three office dealers have been prosecuted for executing work unlawfully as they are unlicensed.

Please let me know if there is a convenient time for this and if you have specific concerns. Again, thank you for your support for the regulations relating to interior design and architecture and for the protection for the public, and your service to the constituents of this District and for all Floridians.

Cordially,