



January 25, 2018

Bend City Council
710 NW Wall St.
Bend, OR 97703

RE: Nonconforming Sign Code

Mayor Roats and Council,

The Bend Chamber Board of Directors understands the inclusive process that helped form the updated City of Bend's sign code. We appreciate the time and effort put in to review sign code amendments and are aware of the significance to businesses and the aesthetic of the community.

However, the chamber board is concerned about some of the recommended changes to the last amended sign code that may affect many of our members within the city who have existing signs. These businesses have existing signs that do not fall in to the city's code and were grandfathered in during the previous amendment process. They would be greatly impacted by the removal of a current section of the code relating to an exception for signs damaged beyond the control of the owner. This is a change that departs from the previous agreement that was made with those who worked on evaluating and recommending the sign code amendment in 2012.

While we understand the importance of code to be enforced without a multitude of "exceptions," we believe that omitting language from the last amendment, which addressed the issue of damaged grandfathered signs will inadvertently be unfair and excessively expensive to businesses that fall within this protection.

Thus, it is our recommendation that Council not delete, but rather leave in Section 1, subsection "a" of Bend Code, Chapter 9.50, SIGNS, specifically 9.50.190 Nonconforming Sign, "Exception: When a nonconforming sign is damaged by causes beyond the control of the owner, the sign may be rebuilt to the same size and height, using the same types of original material."

Thank you for your consideration and service to our business community.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks
CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce