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February 11, 2019

Senator Tim Knopp  
900 Court St. NE S-309  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Cheri Helt  
900 Court St. NE H-371  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Jack Zika  
900 Court St. NE H-387  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Regarding: SB 608: Relating to residential tenancies

Dear Senator Knopp, Representative Helt, Representative Zika,

The Bend Chamber of Commerce would like to provide input to SB 608. Like many parts of Oregon, Bend is in dire need of affordable housing. The Bend Chamber is working on this complex issue on multiple fronts with many public and private community partners. We also have a critical need for mid-range housing options in order to recruit, retain, and grow local businesses and a stable workforce. Our housing crisis has severe projected affects if we don't act now to create full spectrum housing options in the Bend area and Central Oregon region markets.

On behalf of the Bend Chamber of Commerce, our 1,300+ members representing over 25,000, SB 608 needs to address the root cause of our housing crisis – supply – and the affects SB 608 will have on inventory and housing costs for our area over time. Housing legislation, including SB 608 must not inadvertently inhibit the addition of new-built affordable housing inventory which will add options for our growing, diverse communities.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks  
CEO  
Bend Chamber of Commerce