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March 12, 2019

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

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: Bend Chamber Supports SB 88, relating to accessory dwelling units.

Dear Chair Dembrow, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Helt, Rep. Zika, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber of Commerce, representing 1,300+ members with over 25,000 employees of diverse industry and size, we extend support for SB 88. The Bend Chamber has made addressing the housing shortage a top priority because it has significant negative effects on local businesses; including, but not limited to, an organization's ability to retain a stable workforce or recruit talent. The Bend Chamber is working on the complex issue of housing affordability and increasing inventory with many public and private sector partners.

Deschutes is the fastest growing county in Oregon. Many employees of Bend Chamber members live in the County or elsewhere in the region based on housing availability and/or cost. SB 88 can provide housing without public resources and increase supply for rental housing options which will improve affordability and increase available inventory. Our housing crisis has severe projected affects if we don't act now to create full spectrum housing throughout Central Oregon.

The Oregon legislature has an opportunity to take a simple step to help reduce our housing crisis with the passage of SB 88. We urge the committee to support SB 88.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks
CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce