



March 2, 2021

House Committee on Housing
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Campos, Vice Chair Morgan and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in regarding HB 2100, and Amendment-1 which was presented in the House Housing Committee earlier today. On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,500 business members, the organization whole heartily supports efforts to provide transitional housing to community members in need. Affordable and attainable housing is a pillar of our policy agenda and we believe housing is a fundamental right. To that end, we have supported numerous efforts to create additional transitional housing on the local and state levels.

In concept, we agree with the premise of HB 2100 as directing state and federal housing funds to underserved communities is important. However, we have concerns regarding the reallocation of funds contemplated in this bill, and the unintended consequences for community action agencies. Our community partners, such as Neighbor Impact in Central Oregon, stand to see up to 20 percent of their allocation for homeless services from state housing funds redistributed under the proposed bill. That is concerning to our membership, as these agencies provide shelter and important wrap around services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Given the current housing crisis in Central Oregon now is not the time to redirect resources from well-established programs that serve all our community members.

While the bill is well intentioned and Chamber members wholeheartedly support a focus on serving local, minority communities, we are concerned the bill will have significant unintended consequences for our local community partners. Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion policies is a core principle of the Bend Chamber and our membership, however we believe this bill to be flawed and respectfully ask for a no vote.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Katy Brooks
President + CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

Creating an environment where businesses, their employees and our community excel together through collaboration, advocacy, resources and leadership to meet Bend's business challenges.