



May 5, 2021

Mayor Sally Russell  
Bend City Councilors  
Delivery via E-mail

Mayor Russell and Council Members,

The Bend Chamber of Commerce is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Downtown Economic Improvement District proposal. The Chamber represents over 1,650 small and medium sized businesses through the region, many of which are located in, or near, the Downtown District.

One of the Bend Chamber's guiding principles is to promote economic vitality, workforce development and innovation that lead to a vibrant business community. We believe the continuation of Bend's successful Downtown Economic Improvement District (EID) is paramount to that goal. Not only does the Downtown EID support business development, it fosters a sense of community by hosting special events and ensuring the downtown streets and sidewalks are welcoming to all.

The past 18 months have shown the resiliency of our business community, and we have the Downtown Bend Business Association (DBBA) and its work via the EID to thank for our shared successes. DBBA's commitment to keeping Bend businesses open and advocating on behalf of thoughtful policy changes have allowed businesses to operate in our COVID environment. We look forward to a continued partnership with DBBA on this front.

As Bend continues to grow and attract new residents as well as increased tourism, the continuity of the Downtown EID is vital. We feel the proposed assessment rate of \$0.25 per square foot is fair given the scope of work and the economic impact on the downtown business community. We urge City Council to authorize the Downtown EID as it is an important tool to generate economic vitality for our local business community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback for this vitally important program.

Best Regards,

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 that separates it from the typed name below.

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.