



September 1, 2021

Mayor Sally Russell
Bend City Councilors
Delivery via E-mail

Mayor Russell and City Council members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,500 business members, we appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed code changes which support the implementation of HB 2001. The Chamber has long supported the City's goals towards creating additional opportunities for affordable and attainable housing, as workforce housing is the biggest challenge facing many local employers.

Since the legislation's passage in 2019, we have followed the HB 2001 work group's discussions and offer the Chamber's support of the proposed code amendments. The policy changes outlined in the development code package fit squarely within our shared goals and will create much needed housing inventory for our community.

The variety of housing types outlined in HB 2001 and included in the proposed development code changes offer an opportunity to meet our City's unique needs. The addition of certain types of middle housing such as duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes will provide economic and environmental efficiencies for our community. Similarly, the provisions outlined in the development code changes will provide options for both developers that seek to diversify their housing products and residents that seek affordable and sustainable housing. We see the changes proposed in HB 2001 as a catalyst for development, specifically in the Bend Central District (BCD), and a means to spur private sector investments to realize the BCD vision.

We look forward to continuing to engage with City leadership as the code proposal moves toward implementation. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these important policy changes, as they will have a cumulative impact on our current and future housing challenges.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks", written over a thin horizontal line. The signature is cursive and fluid.

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.