



June 1, 2022

Mayor Gena Goodman Campbell  
Bend City Councilors  
Delivery Via E-mail

Mayor Goodman Campbell and City Council members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,650 business members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments related to Council's adoption of workforce housing tax exemptions. 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.

We are excited to see the energy surrounding the work group discussions over the past six months, and the Council's desire to find creative avenues to address the current housing challenges. Over the past year, the Chamber has supported a variety of policy changes to create additional housing capacity, including implementation of HB 2001, SB 458 and several pieces of legislation in the 2022 session. In our fall 2021 public opinion survey, 67 percent of respondents shared that lack of affordable housing was the driving factor to moving away from Bend. The current housing market has impacted employer recruitment and retention, as we know this is a pain point for local businesses of all sizes.

We applaud City Council for looking at a broad landscape of policies, including the Multiple Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTEx) and the Non-Profit Affordable Housing Tax Exemption. We support the outcomes of the working group to fine tune these two tax exemption policies to best fit our local community. Most importantly, we support the two policy changes before you tonight and look forward to adding them into the tool box. We believe these both provide options for developers that seek to diversify their housing products and residents that seek affordable and sustainable housing. We see these discussions as a catalyst to attract future development, specifically in the Bend Central District (BCD), and a means to spur private sector investments to realize the BCD vision.

Thank you for your consideration of these important and timely policy changes.

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.