



March 3, 2025

Chair Pam Marsh  
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Marsh and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber which serves 1,750 members and 8,500 businesses in our local community, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2138. Since 2022, we have prioritized advocacy efforts to address our community's housing challenges, with a keen focus on workforce housing and local infrastructure investments.

In an employer survey conducted by ECONorthwest in October 2022, 91 percent of the over 200 employer respondents stated the high cost of housing limits their growth and strains their existing workforce. This is unsustainable for our community and requires immediate and direct action.

Our community has long been a leader in innovative housing solutions, and the Bend Chamber is proud to be a partner in this work. We support the policies outlined in the bill, as they remove barriers and allow for additional housing types and options to alleviate current shortages. The bill has been thoroughly discussed among stakeholders and has wide support from housing partners across the state. As part of the fastest growing area of Oregon, HB 2138 is essential for our community to make meaningful progress towards goals outlined in our housing needs analysis.

Thank you for your tireless work addressing our housing challenges, and we appreciate the opportunity to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks", written in a cursive style.

Katy Brooks  
CEO & President  
Bend Chamber of Commerce