



February 26, 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 the -1 amendment to HB 3031. 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.

Central Oregon has unique challenges with infrastructure due to the land composition and associated costs to excavate and prepare land for housing. We applaud the underlying concept of the bill and the creation of a programmatic housing infrastructure framework. We also thank Governor Kotek for including a proposed \$100M in the budget for housing infrastructure legislation, including HB 3031.

We look forward to reviewing the -2 amendment and further dialog to address several of the technical requirements included in the current version, specifically the density and affordability requirements. Given the current deficit of housing units, we support maximum flexibility for local governments choosing to utilize this new funding source and request technical elements of the program be delegated to the rulemaking process.

Thank you for your tireless work to address our housing challenges, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

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