



June 8, 2023

House Committee on Rules  
Chair Julie Fahey  
Oregon Street Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Fahey , Vice Chairs Breese Iverson and Kropf and Committee members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,150 members and 8,500 businesses in Central Oregon, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 3414 re: Housing Production Strategies.

Over the past year the Bend Chamber has invested significant time and resources to research, convene, collaborate and advocate to help alleviate our current housing crisis. In our October 2022 employer survey conducted by ECONorthwest, 91 percent of the over 200 Central Oregon 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.

Governor Kotek's housing production goal of 36,000 units a year is an admirable and much needed goal to start making progress towards our housing crisis. However, the state's current planning and permitting system will not allow us to reach this level of production. **We support HB 3414 and the -19 amendments because they will help remove barriers to housing development, streamline planning and permitting and, most importantly, give developers a greater level of predictability to create much need housing.**

By allowing for modest and reasonable expansions of urban growth boundaries into already designated urban reserves, HB 3414 would provide our cities with a new tool to help address our state's severe underproduction. Both small and large cities need every tool available to them to develop more housing, create jobs, and bring down costs for Oregon families. We also support the Governor's statewide approach to the entirety of the housing continuum. We see great potential in establishing the Housing Accountability and Production Office to support both jurisdictions and developers to increase our housing supply.

Much work has been done to address concerns from local government and environmental stakeholders, and we applaud the pragmatic approach this bill and the -19 amendment take to address those concerns. As such, we urge a yes vote on the bill and thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks".

Katy Brooks  
President & CEO  
Bend Chamber of Commerce