



## CITY OF BEND

February 1, 2023

**LOCATION**

710 NW Wall Street  
Downtown Bend

**MAILING ADDRESS**

PO Box 431  
Bend, OR 97709

**PHONE**

(541) 388-5505  
Relay Users Dial 7-1-1

**FAX**

(541) 385-6676

**WEB**

bendoregon.gov

**MAYOR**

Melanie Kebler

**MAYOR PRO TEM**

Megan Perkins

**CITY COUNCILORS**

Anthony Broadman  
Barb Campbell  
Ariel Méndez  
Megan Norris  
Mike Riley

**CITY MANAGER**

Eric King

House Committee on Housing and Houselessness

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St., NE, Salem, OR 97301

*Submitted via electronic mail*

Chair Dexter, Vice-chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee:

**Subject: House Bill 2980 (HB 2980)**

We appreciate the intention behind HB 2980, and encourage the members of this committee to meet with cities and other stakeholders to continue developing this important concept.

The City of Bend appreciates efforts that help increase affordable and middle-income housing. These projects often operate on the margins, middle-income in particular. This proposal, if successful, would help many important projects get built throughout the state.

The City has for many years been actively partnering with developers to meet the housing needs of Bend, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Bend is the first City in Oregon to implement an Affordable Housing Fee. Affordable housing is a top priority in the City Council goals and strategies are in place to remove barriers and increase affordable housing. The City is actively developing policy and sourcing funds to participate in collaborative efforts to ensure that residents of all income levels have a place to call home.

We thank the sponsors, and Rep. Marsh in particular for their work in developing this concept and moving it out for discussion. The City of Bend cares deeply about affordable housing, and we stand ready to help ensure that innovative concepts such as this succeed in addressing our statewide housing crisis.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature of Eric King in black ink.

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Eric King  
City Manager  
City of Bend