



February 10, 2025

Senator Khanh Pham
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon Street Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson and Committee members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber and our 1,950 members and 8,500 local and regional businesses, we are pleased to submit testimony in support of SB 967. 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.

We are pleased to support SB 967 as it will provide our local governments in the City of Bend and Deschutes County with the opportunity to utilize a new tool to unlock funding for site infrastructure. Central Oregon has unique challenges with infrastructure due to the land composition and associated costs to excavate and prepare land for housing. The cost of infrastructure remains one of, if not, the biggest barriers to development in our community. Collaboration via public private partnerships as authorized by a Local Improvement District will advance shared infrastructure projects that support housing and economic development and have the potential to bring housing units online more quickly.

We believe that the policy tool contemplated in SB 967 will be catalytic for our community and spur development of needed housing units, specifically in the Southeast Area with the potential over 1,200 units and over 2,800 jobs. As such, we thank Senator Broadman for championing this legislation and offer strong support for the proposal.

Regards,

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

Katy Brooks
President & CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce