



March 28, 2023

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Chair Senator Kayse Jama
Oregon Street Capitol 900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jama and Committee members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,150 members and 8,500 business in Central Oregon, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 977: Relating to housing.

In order to meet affordable housing needs of our community, Bend has a number of projects underway. Some of these projects will be located in areas zoned for mixed use that are accessible, densely developed and activated areas, including Bend's Central District.

In order for areas like this to include affordable housing, flexibility in development and funding is essential. This type of community development will include commercial ground floors, which can house a variety of office and business uses as well as childcare. The ability to construct this type of building that incorporates affordable units makes for a more robust and successful community, and provides essential workforce housing. But it must "pencil out". The ability to be flexible in the use of the building and be exempt from prevailing wage, therefore, must be available to builders.

We believe SB 977 will help make these planned, accessible, and essential communities a place where everyone can live, do business and raise a family. We urge you to advance this legislation.

Best Regards,

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

Katy Brooks President & CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

