



April 16, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
House Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon Street Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Anderson, Breese-Iverson and Committee members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber and our 1,750 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.

Our testimony also reflects the support of Economic Development of Central Oregon (EDCO), a private, non-profit organization serving the tri-county region of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties whose mission is to promote sustained job growth and prosperous communities through traded-sector industry growth.

Our organizations are pleased to support SB 967 as it will provide our local governments in Central Oregon with the opportunity to utilize a new tool to unlock funding for site infrastructure. Our region 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 help deliver infrastructure to housing, commercial and industrial properties, which will support Oregon communities in meeting their housing, economic development and place-setting goals. As such, we thank Representative Levy for championing this legislation and offer strong support for the proposal.

Sincerely,

Sara Odendahl
Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives
Bend Chamber

Jon Stark
CEO
EDCO