



July 16, 2026

Mayor Melanie Kebler
Bend City Council
710 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97702

Mayor Kebler and Members of the Bend City Council,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber of Commerce, thank you for the time, thoughtfulness, and engagement the City of Bend dedicated throughout the process of considering the proposed Bend Central District Economic Improvement District (EID).

While the Chamber supported the creation of the EID as a tool to provide long-term investment in the district, we also recognize and respect the outcome of the remonstrance process. The process exists to ensure that property owners have a meaningful voice in decisions that directly affect them, and the level of participation demonstrated throughout this process reflects how deeply stakeholders care about the future of the Bend Central District.

We appreciate the Council's willingness to thoughtfully consider a range of perspectives and the significant work by City staff to engage stakeholders, answer questions, and refine the proposal over many months. Regardless of the outcome, that effort has strengthened the conversation around what the Central District needs to thrive.

The Bend Central District remains one of Bend's greatest opportunities for economic growth, housing, and community investment. The City's continued commitment to the district, including major infrastructure investments and the long-term vision for future civic facilities, provides a strong foundation for its continued evolution. We appreciate the comments made by council during the hearing encouraging continued engagement through efforts like the Core Area Advisory Board and other collaborative forums.

Although the proposed EID will not move forward, the work of building a vibrant, safe, and economically successful Central District does. We look forward to continuing to partner with the City, businesses, property owners, and community organizations to identify opportunities that support the district's long-term success. We hope the conversations that emerged through this process will continue to inform future strategies and investments.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to the Bend Central District. The Chamber remains committed to working alongside all stakeholders to help realize the district's tremendous potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Odendahl", with a stylized, flowing script.

Sara Odendahl
CEO
Bend Chamber