



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

Mayor Kebler and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber and our 1,730 members in the local community, we appreciate the opportunity to share our support of item #9 on your agenda: Adoption of a resolution establishing a Housing Options Made for Everyone (HOME) committee.

Over the past three years the Bend Chamber has invested significant time and resources to help alleviate our current housing crisis – from policy work to public education and employer investment in workforce housing. We have advocated for creative and bold policies and programs to help solve our community's housing problems. As such, we are excited to support and engage with the new HOME committee.

The Chamber and our partners in the community have supported a variety of tools to kick start housing over the past several years – from tax exemption programs to grant and loan funding to buy down the cost of development, we support reviewing existing and new tools to increase housing production. We believe the HOME committee can be a catalyst for both funding and policy discussions, and should be approached as such.

Given the housing needs in our community as outlined by the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (OHNA) data, we clearly have work to do. The macroeconomic climate and uncertainties for the future are real issues affecting the production of housing, not only in Bend but everywhere. Tariff pressures have already impacted the building industry and will likely continue to raise prices and make projects less feasible.

As we have said before, we need to employ all the tools in the toolbox, especially the innovative ones, to make a dent in our housing shortage. The Bend Chamber thanks you for taking action to make positive change, and we look forward to representing the business community as the HOME committee takes shape later this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sara Odendahl", with a fluid, cursive style.

Sara Odendahl
Interim CEO
Bend Chamber