



July 15, 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, we write in support of the proposed resolution authorizing the City of Bend to offer up to 10-year Enterprise Zone property tax exemptions for eligible projects, as authorized by House Bill 4084.

The Bend Chamber supported the Enterprise Zone modernization provisions of HB 4084 during the 2026 legislative session because the provisions recognize how business investment has evolved. Today's traded-sector projects are increasingly capital intensive, construction timelines are longer, and major employers often require additional time before reaching full operational staffing. Modernizing the Enterprise Zone program helps ensure Oregon and communities like Bend remain competitive when attracting and retaining family-wage employers.

The resolution before Council is a practical implementation of that legislative work. It does not automatically grant 10-year exemptions but enables the City to consider longer exemptions for qualifying projects that demonstrate substantial capital investment, regional economic impact, or alignment with local economic development goals. Existing safeguards remain in place, including written agreements, wage requirements, and school support fee obligations.

Enterprise Zones remain one of Oregon's most effective economic development tools. They encourage investment that expands the local tax base over the long term, create family-wage employment opportunities, and strengthen Bend's ability to compete for traded-sector businesses. Providing the flexibility authorized by HB 4084 ensures the City has access to a modern incentive structure that reflects today's economic realities while maintaining strong local oversight and accountability.

The Bend Chamber's Advocacy Council reviewed this proposal and recommended the Chamber support the resolution. We believe this action is consistent with our longstanding advocacy for policies that improve Oregon's competitiveness, encourage responsible business investment, and provide local communities with effective economic development tools.

We appreciate the City's continued partnership in fostering a strong and resilient local economy and respectfully urge your support of the proposed resolution.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sara Odendahl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sara Odendahl
CEO, Bend Chamber of Commerce