

Janelle Bynum

Candidate for Congressional District 5

www.janellebynum.com

Business Competitiveness & Regulatory Predictability

Central Oregon businesses are navigating rising costs, regulatory complexity, and economic uncertainty. The Bend Chamber supports policies that strengthen business resiliency while providing greater regulatory and tax predictability.

What federal tax, regulatory, or economic policies would you prioritize to improve the business climate and help Central Oregon businesses invest, grow, and create jobs?

As a business owner, one of the biggest challenges for our family was uncertainty. Businesses and consumers have had to deal with far too much uncertainty as a result of this administration's erratic and harmful tariff policies. After the Supreme Court struck down the unlawful tariffs, I introduced the RELIEF Act to automatically refund tariffs and customs duties, ensuring small businesses would get their money back, even if they didn't have the resources for a legal dispute.

In addition, I've been laser-focused on cutting red tape to make it easier for small businesses to get open and stay open, including by passing a bill to increase access to capital for rural small businesses. We also need a tax code that rewards local job creation and incentivizes our small businesses to expand.

Workforce Availability & Readiness

Central Oregon employers continue to face challenges recruiting and retaining workers due to housing, healthcare, childcare, and workforce training needs. The Chamber supports policies that increase housing production and childcare access while strengthening career-connected learning, workforce training, and credential portability.

What federal policies would you support to strengthen Central Oregon's workforce by addressing housing and childcare barriers? How would you support improving access to education, training, apprenticeships, and other pathways aligned with employer needs?

As a mom and local businesswoman, I know our state doesn't thrive unless our workforce thrives – and that means affordable housing, accessible childcare, and strong job readiness. The economic crisis of housing affordability is a top issue for Central Oregonians and the childcare shortage strains families and keeps talented workers out of the workforce.

We don't have enough housing, and we need a spectrum of help here – that's why I've made housing a core priority of my K-30 agenda. I guided three bipartisan bills focused on housing, including easing regulatory barriers to building, into law as part of the 21st Century Road to Housing Act. But I know there's a lot of work left to do. I'm focused on making it easier to build, to drive down the cost of housing.

We also can't leave childcare out of the equation – its workforce infrastructure. If people don't have access to high quality child care, they can't work. I've worked on this the entire time I've been an elected official. In the State House, I passed legislation to expand childcare assistance, support home providers, and invest in childcare facilities. I also helped advance the CHIPS Child Care Fund, connecting our semiconductor investments with the childcare infrastructure we need to support those jobs.

Infrastructure That Enables Regional Growth

The Chamber supports coordinated infrastructure planning and investments that enable housing, private development, and long-term economic growth.

What federal transportation, utility, and infrastructure investments would you prioritize for Central Oregon, and how would you work with local and state partners to secure funding for projects that support housing, business growth, and regional mobility?

Central Oregon needs infrastructure that keeps pace with its growth. My priority is to make sure communities have the water, power, transportation, broadband, industrial land, and housing infrastructure they need to grow and thrive.

I've been fighting for those investments since I was sworn in to Congress. I secured nearly \$1 million for Bend to replace their aging water pipes and another \$1.25 million for Redmond's wastewater treatment system. I've also helped Central Oregon get \$3.8 million to expand the Redmond airport and funding for roadway safety improvements along OR 126, including a new signal, pedestrian and bicycle

crossings, and ADA improvements. I've also gotten the Accelerating Home Building Act to help us build more houses, faster, signed into law.

Looking ahead, I'm focused on preventing job loss, keeping economic opportunity in Central Oregon, and building more resilient infrastructure. That means working with our state legislature, cities, counties, and local partners to strengthen the power grid, expand broadband, grow our industrial landbank, and make sure our water infrastructure can support growth. I'm working to bring home an additional \$10 million to Central Oregon in the FY2027 budget, including investments in our workforce, childcare, and community infrastructure.

My approach is simple: listen to local leaders, coordinate across levels of government, and bring every dollar I can home. Central Oregon is on the rise – my focus is on ensuring we can meet its needs.