



March 3, 2015

Sen. Mark Hass, Chair  
Sen. Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair  
Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr.  
Sen. Chris Edwards  
Sen. Chuck Riley  
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
Oregon State Capitol  
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Salem, Oregon 97301

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Subject: Senate Bill 516

Dear Esteemed Senators,

I am writing to you to let you know of the support the City of Bend has for Senate Bill 516 to amend the Recording Fee program providing funding for affordable housing. As you may know, Bend is one of the fastest growing cities in the country and has one of the tightest housing markets, particularly for our workforce. We currently have a vacancy rate of less than 0.5%.

JIM CLINTON  
*Mayor*

SALLY RUSSELL  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

VICTOR CHUDOWSKY  
*City Councilor*

DOUG KNIGHT  
*City Councilor*

NATHAN BODDIE  
*City Councilor*

CASEY ROATS  
*City Councilor*

BARB CAMPBELL  
*City Councilor*

ERIC KING

*City Manager*

Since its inception the recording fee has collected over \$4 million from Deschutes County, roughly 40% of the total that has been awarded statewide. This from a county that is only 4% of the total state population. We have seen the minimal sum of \$700,000 in development funding returned from this investment.

With a housing market that is in crisis mode, to have such a small return of what has been collected from this region is not just. The City of Bend is in full support of SB 516 that would ensure that the majority of funding collected in a county is returned to that county.

I hope that your committee gives this a thoughtful hearing and forwards this on to the full legislature for approval.

Sincerely,

Jim Clinton  
Mayor