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June 11, 2019

**TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means**

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair; Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair; Sen. Jackie Winters, Co-Vice Chair; Sen. Lee Beyer; Sen. Lew Frederick; Sen. Fred Girod; Sen. Bill Hansell; Sen. Dallas Heard; Sen. James Manning Jr.; Sen. Arnie Roblan; Sen. Chuck Thomsen; Sen. Rob Wagner

Rep. Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair; Rep. David Gomberg, Co-Vice Chair; Rep. Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair; Rep. Paul Holvey; Rep. Susan McLain; Rep. Mike McLane; Rep. Rob Nosse; Rep. Carla Piluso; Rep. Duane Stark

**CC:** Senator Tim Knopp, Representative Cheri Helt, Representative Jack Zika

**RE: HB 2001A-16 Regarding Missing Middle Housing**

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Senate Co-chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, Winters and House Co-chairs Rayfield, Gomberg, Smith and Joint Ways and Means Committee members:

The Bend Chamber of Commerce represents 1,300+ members employing 25,000 people in Central Oregon. Our members support HB 2001-A16 amendment to increase housing for our workforce.

Bend and Central Oregon are one of the most successful business and revenue producers in the state. Primarily made of small businesses, we generate far more job growth per capita than any other region. Like much of the state, the availability of housing continues to be a barrier to growing our workforce due in large part to a lack of inventory of entry to mid-range housing. HB 2001-A16 offers the flexibility to increase inventory of middle housing such as duplexes, triplexes, quads, cottage clusters and townhomes and creates more opportunities to build. Our chamber has supported a similar effort in Bend and would like to see this tool be available statewide.

This legislation will allow for a statewide tool to help build more housing in the communities where jobs are available, yet availability is limited. We believe HB 2001-A16 is a tool that helps the state move in the right direction while providing incentives for affordable housing and giving local authority for successful implementation.

Thank you for your service to our state. Please support HB 2001-A16.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks, CEO