



June 22, 2021

Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Girod, and Committee members,
Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 3318 and the -6 amendment which replaced the initial measure. The bill as passed by the House, provides for much need additional land to be included in the City of Bend's UGB via an expedited land planning process.

On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,500 business members, the organization whole heartily supports efforts to increase affordable and workforce housing in our community. As it too familiar in many communities, we are seeing limited inventory, skyrocketing prices and key segments of our workforce being pushed out to other bedroom communities due to these conditions. Employers are reporting qualified candidates declining job opportunities due to the inability to find affordable housing options. This is concerning in normal times, but it is an acute and intense problem given the current worker shortage.

The Stevens land tract is a key element of the City's southeast development and complete communities plan, and is anticipated to add to the City's workforce and AMI limited housing inventory. The economic development opportunities related to HB 3318 are also important to recognize as the City stands to bring in not only housing development but also related commercial development in these new communities.

The -6 amendment is an artfully crafted solution to utilize the unique situation surrounding the Stevens Road parcel of land and its ultimate development. The Chamber is engaged on many levels to support additional affordable and attainable housing units and increase the overall stock in the quickest manner possible. This bill is a welcome complement to other work being done within the City's UGB to address the housing crisis.

We appreciate the inclusion of dedicated acreage for AMI limited housing and the diversity of housing mix which will create a unique, new livable communities on the Southeast section of Bend. The Chamber looks forward to continuing our partnerships with the City and the development community to ensure the land is developed in a ecologically and economically responsible way.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a yes vote on HB 3318 as amended by the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katy Brooks
President + CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

Creating an environment where businesses, their employees and our community excel together through collaboration, advocacy, resources and leadership to meet Bend's business challenges.