



CITY OF BEND

February 1, 2023

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Eric King

House Committee on Housing and Houselessness
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St., NE, Salem, OR 97301
Submitted via electronic mail

Chair Dexter, Vice-chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee:

Subject: House Bill 2980 (HB 2980)

We appreciate the intention behind HB 2980, and encourage the members of this committee to meet with cities and other stakeholders to continue developing this important concept.

The City of Bend appreciates efforts that help increase affordable and middle-income housing. These projects often operate on the margins, middle-income in particular. This proposal, if successful, would help many important projects get built throughout the state.

The City has for many years been actively partnering with developers to meet the housing needs of Bend, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Bend is the first City in Oregon to implement an Affordable Housing Fee. Affordable housing is a top priority in the City Council goals and strategies are in place to remove barriers and increase affordable housing. The City is actively developing policy and sourcing funds to participate in collaborative efforts to ensure that residents of all income levels have a place to call home.

We thank the sponsors, and Rep. Marsh in particular for their work in developing this concept and moving it out for discussion. The City of Bend cares deeply about affordable housing, and we stand ready to help ensure that innovative concepts such as this succeed in addressing our statewide housing crisis.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric King".
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Eric King
City Manager
City of Bend