



## CITY OF BEND

March 29, 2022

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Ariel Méndez  
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Mike Riley

**CITY MANAGER**

Eric King

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman, and members of the Committee,

I write to express the City of Bend's support for HB3440, which will amend current law to allow Deschutes County the option to make new funds available do address the housing shortage and homelessness crisis in our community. As you may know, Bend is in the midst of an acute housing shortage, which has driven up rents and home prices, and resulted in too many young people and their families living unsheltered in our region. While Bend has long been a leader in investing in deed-restricted affordable housing, we still need every tool possible to create the housing and homelessness solutions our community needs right now.

Allowing Bend and our fellow taxing districts in Deschutes County to utilize funds from tax foreclosed properties for those solutions is one such tool. HB3440 could help us to create an ongoing funding stream that will keep more youth from becoming chronically homeless, develop more low-income housing our struggling families desperately need, and simply keep more people housed. Making this change to provide this option to Deschutes County will allow us to evaluate this funding stream and create shared priorities on how to spend the money helping our community's most vulnerable. We ask that you move this bill forward with a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you for keeping the record open to allow this additional testimony in support of HB3440 from the City of Bend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "MK", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Melanie Kebler  
Mayor of Bend  
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