



April 14, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

RE: SB 967-A - Support

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in support of SB 967-A** on behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch (LandWatch). For over 35 years, LandWatch has been working to ensure Central Oregon's livable future. We do this by creating well-planned and well-built cities with Complete Communities, preserving farmland, and protecting wild, open spaces.

SB 967-A would clarify state law (ORS 223.389) to explicitly grant cities and counties the authority to collaborate via intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) to establish local improvement districts (LIDs) within unincorporated Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) areas that are not yet incorporated in city limits. In Bend and elsewhere in the state, this includes UGB expansion areas that haven't yet been annexed into the city.

This bill helps tackle some of our toughest housing barriers: site readiness and the expense of needed infrastructure. It would improve a tool cities can use to help finance and build necessary infrastructure in these areas, which supports more efficient urbanization and the development of housing and Complete Communities once these areas are incorporated.

There have been past instances around the state where the provision of services and infrastructure led to exurban development in places that ultimately have not been annexed into cities. LandWatch requested an amendment to this bill to help ensure these same issues are not repeated when an LID IGA within UGBs, but outside incorporated city limits, is used by cities and counties to help finance and build infrastructure. The adopted -2 amendment sufficiently addressed this issue and we appreciate the work by Senator Broadman, the City of Bend, and other interested stakeholders to refine and improve this bill.

Therefore, we urge your support of SB 967-A. Thank you for your service and consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Corie Harlan
Cities & Towns Program Director

