
February 3, 2026

Senate Commerce and General Government
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97701
RE: SB 1512 Letter of Support

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan and Members Misslin, Pham and Robinson,

The City of Bend appreciates your continued partnership on issues that support Central Oregon's economic vitality and long-term prosperity. As the Legislature considers priorities for the upcoming session, staff would like to share perspective on Senate Bill 1512 and the role Prosperity Programs play in advancing outcomes that align with Bend's economic development and workforce goals

A stable and responsive workforce system is foundational to Bend's economic health. Local employers across multiple sectors continue to face workforce challenges, while many residents seek pathways to employment that provide family-supporting wages and long-term stability. Programs supported through Oregon's Prosperity framework have demonstrated measurable results in connecting Oregonians to employment, supporting business needs, and strengthening household economic security.

Statewide outcomes from Prosperity Programs indicate strong returns on public investment, including increased wages, higher rates of full-time employment, and reduced reliance on public assistance. These outcomes contribute to individual and family stability while also generating broader fiscal benefits through increased tax revenue and reduced demand on state services

For Bend, these investments align with established legislative priorities focused on economic prosperity, workforce readiness, and community resilience. Workforce participation and wage growth are closely connected to other community objectives, including housing stability, business retention and expansion, and the City's ability to sustain essential public services.

Funding for Prosperity Programs is currently scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. Decisions made during this legislative session will influence whether Oregon maintains a workforce system that has demonstrated effectiveness during periods of economic transition and uncertainty.

City of Bend staff appreciate your consideration of SB 1512 and your continued work to advance policies that support Central Oregon's economy, employers, and residents.

Sincerely,



Cyrus Mooney, Economic Development, City of Bend