



March 13, 2025

Chair John Lively
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Lively and members of the Committee,

My name is Sara Odendahl, and I serve as the Director of Government Affairs at the Bend Chamber of Commerce. I am offering comments today on behalf of our organization and Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO). We appreciate the opportunity to share our support for HB 3107 alongside our partners at Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA).

The Bend Chamber serves 1,750 members and 8,500 business in our local community. EDCO is a private, non-profit organization serving the tri-county region of Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties whose mission is to promote sustained job growth and prosperous communities through traded-sector industry growth.

Our organizations have heard from various stakeholders and businesses in our Central Oregon communities that have first-hand experience with delays processing air and water quality permits. Many of these businesses have experienced delays well beyond the 6-month timeframe outlined in the bill, as well as additional administrative hurdles often encountered at the end of the clock.

This issue is not only an administrative efficiency matter but also has significant economic impacts for our community as well as the state a whole. Projects and regulated entities governed by DEQ permitting are significant economic drivers; they create jobs and contribute to a strong property tax base. Not to mention the downstream impacts on local communities. Oregon already has limited tools for economic development, recruitment and retention of traded sector businesses, and we support the proactive policies outlined in the bill to support the businesses that choose to make Oregon home.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 3107 and we appreciate the leadership of Reps. Lively, Levy , Levy and Evans to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sara Odendahl
On behalf of Bend Chamber and EDCO