



March 12, 2025

Chair Pam Marsh
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Marsh and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber which serves 1,750 members and 8,500 businesses in our local community, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 3746. Since 2022, we have prioritized advocacy efforts to address our community's housing challenges, with a keen focus on workforce housing and homeownership.

In an employer survey conducted by ECONorthwest in October 2022, 91 percent of the over 200 employer respondents stated the high cost of housing limits their growth and strains their existing workforce. This is unsustainable for our community and requires immediate and direct action. Simply put our workforce cannot afford to reside in the city they work in, much less purchase a home.

Since 2022, the Bend Chamber has convened several housing policy roundtables, and construction defect liability reform has consistently been discussed as a means to increase housing production with entry level homeownership opportunities.

Policies outlined in HB 3746 would make the needed changes to Oregon's construction defect liability laws to help increase the production of new condominiums and provide certainty for builders and developers looking to bring this product to the market. We support improvements to the current legal structure for construction liability, provided they are balanced between protecting both owners and developers/builders. We understand that stakeholder discussions are continuing to refine the bill even further, and we look forward to seeing future amendments.

Thank you for your tireless work addressing our housing challenges, and we appreciate the opportunity to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Katy Brooks
CEO & President
Bend Chamber of Commerce