

March 19, 2025

David Brock Smith
900 Court St NE, S-316
Salem, OR 97301

RE: In Support of Senate Bill 1047

Dear Senator Smith,

I may be testifying today but wanted to submit my support in writing as well.

As you know, I am a life long resident of Coos County, having grown up 10 minutes from where Bandon Dunes Golf Resort is located. This was an idyllic area to grow up in the 1960's and 1970's but times have changed and our local economy has moved away from fisheries, logging and farming (my family had a 100 head jersey dairy farm) to being primarily a tourism industry for a number of reasons we are not here to discuss today.

While I am a member of the project team for a new golf course development in Curry County near Port Orford living in Bandon, I was also a member of the initial team at Bandon Dunes for the first 10 years of their operations, from 1997-2007, a 13-year member of the local school board and an 8 year Bandon Parks and Rec Commissioner. My 2 daughters each attended preschool and 12 years of public education in Bandon schools.

My testimony today is from both my personal and professional perspectives. Development in Curry County has the opportunity to enjoy similar benefits as those experienced in Bandon, 30 miles north. For example:

- The community of Bandon, Oregon has benefited from many direct and indirect contributions made by Bandon Dunes as a community partner and major employer through their charitable foundations and stakeholder collaboration, including numerous grants to local non-profit organizations such as the Bandon Community Youth Center, Bandon Community Preschool, the public school district as well as the City of Bandon, and more. Since the resort opened in 1999, Bandon's community, with funding also from the resort, helped to build the Bandon Community Center, the Sprague Performing Arts Center, and the Bandon Public Library (previously housed in City Hall).

Community: Student enrollment has not been significantly impacted, but is increasing slowly. Like other areas in the country, affordable housing is limited. The City of Bandon, the resort, and other employer/stakeholders are presently working together to increase workforce and affordable housing and have worked together in the past to increase child care options for working parents.

- From Forbes Magazine: "In 2023, the resort recorded an astonishing 257,000 rounds played, bolstered by a top-tier hospitality experience and an eight-figure merchandise business. Forbes estimates Bandon Dunes had just shy of \$125 million in revenue last year and turned a profit of north of \$31 million, valuing the resort at \$350 million. (Jun 12, 2024)" Indicating significant economic impact to the area.

Timeline: Growth was slow but steady.

- There were about 15-18 years of work to acquire the initial property and permits to begin construction.

- 1997 Bandon Dunes Construction begins
- 1999 Resort opens to public – 1 golf course, no lodging.
- 2000 initial lodging opens with 18 rooms on property, one restaurant and 2 lounges. Today total lodging is now at 210 rooms and there are 10 restaurants serving food and beverages on property, over 500 employees and over 350 contractor caddies.
- Since 2001 BDGR has participated in the national Chick Evans Caddy Scholarship program, as of 2024, 58 local area students have been awarded 4-year college scholarships to attend participating colleges, in Oregon that is now the University of Oregon.
- 2024 – Bandon Dunes celebrated 25 years of operations and growth and collaboration with the community.

Thank you for your assistance and this opportunity to testify.

Troy E. Russell

88432 Trout Pond Lane
Bandon, OR 97411