



May 9, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178,
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse and Committee members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber and Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of our FY 2025-27 budget priorities related to HB 5531: Lottery Bond Authorization. The Bend Chamber serves 1,750 members and 8,500 business in our local community, and 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 shared priorities align with the initial intent of lottery bonds and are focused on economic development initiatives in our local communities. We appreciate your consideration of these important investments and understand the difficult choices that lie ahead.

Economic Development & Infrastructure

Central Oregon is among the state's fastest growing areas on a variety of measures, and promoting economic vitality, workforce development and innovation will lead to a vibrant business community. Through that growth we've absorbed a large portion of our available industrial zoned lands. Nearly every city in Central Oregon has industrial infrastructure needs and the investments below will provide necessary resources to bring sustainable job opportunities and new revenue to our communities.

Our Economic Development priorities:

- HB 2411: Industrial Site Readiness Loan Program **\$40 million**
- **\$60 million** for the Special Public Works Fund (POPs 115 & 116)

Housing

Over the past year, our organization has invested significant time and resources to research, collaborate and advocate to help alleviate our community's housing crisis. While we support investment in all types of housing, we have focused on middle market housing, specifically the "missing middle" of 80-120 percent of area median income, or approximately \$83,760 - \$125,640 for a household of four in Deschutes County.

Our housing budget priority:

- **HB 3031:** We strongly support the Governor's requested budget appropriation of **\$100 million** as a minimum investment in housing related infrastructure. This fund will unlock housing production throughout Oregon, as infrastructure funding remains a consistent challenge in achieving the state's housing production goals.

Workforce & Higher Education

The OSU-Cascades campus is a gem in our community, not only providing access to a high-quality post-secondary university, but also collaborative space for business and education intersects. We support their request for **\$42 million** in state support for the construction of a student health and recreation center on the Bend/Central Oregon campus. Facilities and services to support physical and mental health are common at universities, and the Cascades campus is the only public university campus without these essential facilities in Oregon.

Additionally, we support Heart of Oregon Corp's **\$1 million** request to support critical emerging workforce training in Redmond, with direct benefits to residents in Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The Heart of Oregon Central Campus delivers youth pre-apprenticeship job training in the trades, helping with the workforce housing crisis and job training in wildland firefighting. Investment in this campus helps train tomorrow's workforce today!

Thank you for the opportunity to share our budget priorities, and we urge consideration as you set the budget for our next biennium.

Regards,



Katy Brooks
President & CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce



Jon Stark
CEO
Economic Development for Central Oregon

CC: Representative Jason Kropf
Representative Emerson Levy
Senator Anthony Broadman