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February 9, 2026

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

RE: Support for HB 4084 – Governor’s Bill Establishing a Joint Permitting Council

Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, representing nearly 800 employers and organizations in Lane County, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4084 as it moves toward its second hearing.

Oregon’s ability to attract and retain private investment continues to be constrained by lengthy and unpredictable permitting and regulatory approval processes. These challenges are consistently cited as a significant barrier to business recruitment, expansion, and long-term competitiveness. HB 4084 represents a meaningful step toward addressing these challenges.

We appreciate the amendments that have been proposed to refine the bill and strengthen its practical application. In particular, lowering investment thresholds across metro, medium-sized, and rural counties better aligns the FastTrack Program with the scale and diversity of projects that drive economic growth across the state. Clarifying the regulatory approval language to focus on multiple approvals within at least one agency improves workability and reflects how permitting processes function in practice. Additionally, the intent to reduce processing timelines for regulatory approvals, consistent with the bill’s permit inventory recommendations, is an important signal that efficiency and predictability remain central goals.

While we recognize that additional work may be needed to ensure the FastTrack Program achieves measurable reductions in permitting timelines, HB 4084 represents meaningful progress in the right direction. Addressing permitting barriers is essential to improving Oregon’s economic competitiveness, particularly as the state seeks to attract traded-sector investments that support job creation and tax base growth.

For these reasons, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce supports HB 4084 and encourages the committee to continue advancing the bill. We appreciate your efforts to engage stakeholders and address longstanding challenges in Oregon’s development and permitting environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Mikkelsen".

Vonnie Mikkelsen

President and CEO, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce