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February 17, 2026

Chair Janeen Sollman
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), we appreciate the opportunity to share our support for HB 4102.

The Bend Chamber serves 1,650 members and 8,500 businesses 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 strengthen communities by creating opportunities that generate new revenue and family wage jobs.

Our organizations have heard from businesses and stakeholders across Central Oregon who have first-hand experience with delays in processing air and water quality permits. In many cases, these delays extend well beyond the six-month timeframe contemplated in the bill, often compounded by additional administrative hurdles encountered near the end of the review period. These uncertainties make it difficult for businesses to plan investments, hire employees, and move projects forward.

This issue is not simply one of administrative efficiency - it has meaningful economic consequences for our region and for the state as a whole. Projects and regulated entities subject to DEQ permitting are significant economic drivers. They create jobs, contribute to a strong property tax base, and generate downstream benefits for local communities. Oregon already operates with limited economic development tools to recruit and retain traded-sector businesses. We support the proactive policies outlined in HB 4102 to improve predictability and timeliness for businesses that choose to invest in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 4102 and for your leadership on energy and environmental policy.

Sincerely,

Sara Odendahl
CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

Jon Stark
CEO
EDCO