

September 15, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor Russell and City Council
FR: Katherine Austin, AIA, Architect
Member of Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
Member HB2001 Stakeholder Group
Member City Manager's Sounding Board to House our Neighbors
Re: **Support for Item 6, all Text Amendments to the Bend Comprehensive Plan and Bend Development Code to implement meet HB2001**

Honorable Mayor and Council,

As the representative to the HB2001 Stakeholder's Group from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, I have worked nearly two years with my fellow stakeholders and staff to bring the proposed amendments to you this evening. As an architect that specializes in designing the kinds of housing these changes are designed to create, I offered my in-depth expertise to contribute to the best code possible. I can assure you that we have worked collaboratively to bring forth the best plan with which to move forward.

Our Stakeholder Group was a very diverse and committed group of individuals dedicated to finding the best solutions to a very complicated code. We had multiple neighborhood group representation and leadership at the table along with environmental representation as well as architects and developers of a full range of housing particularly of smaller more affordable types of homes. These were open and transparent meetings held in the highest standard for public meetings.

Bend and Oregon and the Nation are experience a crisis of affordability in housing that impacts all of our lives. The business community cannot attract new hires due to the lack of housing. Our most vulnerable are being forced out of their homes due to increases in rents. Our young families cannot begin to build wealth by buying their first homes. Our needed support workers must drive from the far reaches to work in Bend. All these issues can only be solved with an increase in the number and diversity of housing types to meet all income levels.

There is not a moment to spare. Delay only prolongs the crisis. I urge you to move forward tonight to approve the proposed changes to the Bend Comprehensive Plan and Bend Development Code to implement HB2001.

Respectfully yours,



Katherine Austin, AIA, Architect
179 SE Rice Way,
Bend, OR 97702
707-529-5565
Kaaustin@pacbell.net