



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

September 19, 2018

Dear City Councilors,

On behalf of the Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB), I am writing in support of the Map Alignment Project (MAP), scheduled for a public hearing during your regular meeting on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Over the past year, BEDAB has devoted a number of meetings to reviewing the MAP proposal to align Bend's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Maps. After supporting the effort in February, BEDAB held off on formally weighing in until the MAP had been through a public outreach process as directed by Council.

Aligning both maps reduces permit fees for businesses seeking to build or expand in Bend at a time when demand for residential, commercial, and industrial space is high. Further, it removes a barrier that muddled the development process, extending costs and timelines while leaving community members feeling as if their feedback isn't heard.

The BEDAB did identify some concerns during our discussions, chief among them is a need to accommodate some expansion of existing businesses in areas where changes to the Comprehensive Plan now mean their use is considered non-conforming. BEDAB and City staff have identified proposals that will be further refined for consideration in the 2018 Development Code Update.

We appreciate the Council's willingness to revisit this topic and the efforts made to ensure the public is aware of the project.

Sincerely,

Erich Schultz

Chair, Bend Economic Development Advisory Board

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