

November 12, 2024

Honorable Monte Richardson, Mayor  
Honorable Members, City Council  
City of Lander  
240 Lincoln Street  
Lander, WY 82520

**Re: Lander Chamber SUPPORT for Proposed Zoning Code Changes**

Dear Mayor Richardson and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Lander Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Lander Planning Commission's proposed changes (as amended) to the City's zoning code to increase the availability of housing within city limits.

By and large, the Lander Chamber agrees with the Commission's intent. As we have shared many times previously, we have many members, large employers and small, who are struggling to fill open positions, many of them well-paying, professional ones. We understand that these proposals won't solve all of our housing problems, least of all with respect to affordability, but if some housing can be built that some people can afford, then we applaud efforts to do so.

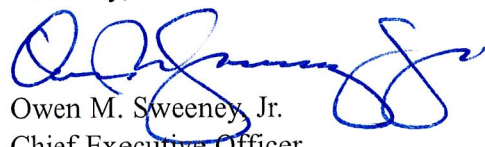
Additionally, we respectfully would like to provide two recommendations for your consideration.

Since the intention of these proposals is to increase the availability of long-term dwellings on the local market, then we suggest that the City consider limiting the number of short-term vacation rentals within city limits. This is not to say that Airbnbs, VRBOs, etc. should have no place in our local economy; they should. Nevertheless, many towns and cities with housing shortages have come to realize that increasing the number of short-term vacation rentals works at cross purposes with their efforts to foster functional local economies.

Secondly, efforts to improve safe construction are laudable, but a point can be reached at which the discretionary adoption of policies above and beyond what makes a building safe often imposes significant costs on businesses that are passed on to consumers. If we want to see lower residential (and commercial) construction costs, we should consider finding ways to reduce unnecessary red tape, and we would be eager to participate in such discussions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Owen M. Sweeney, Jr.", is written over a blue circular stamp or seal.

Owen M. Sweeney, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer