

Member Email Templates

Choose one version and personalize it before sending to the Bend City Council.

Option 1 — Short

Subject: Please remove the technology expansion language from Bend's 2027 priorities

Dear Mayor Kebler and Councilors,

I'm asking you to remove the following sentence from Bend's draft 2027 legislative priorities:

"Support expanding allowed uses of responsible technologies that strengthen public safety and service delivery."

The phrase "responsible technologies" is undefined, while "support expanding allowed uses" presumes that broader authority is desirable before the public knows what technology, legal restriction, or proposed expansion is involved.

Bend has already seen how surveillance capability can produce consequences beyond what local policy intended. Before the City advocates in Salem for broader technological authority, the specific proposal should be publicly identified and evaluated.

Please remove this language. If Council chooses to retain a technology principle, I urge you to replace it with neutral language requiring consideration of necessity, privacy, civil rights, security, cost, transparency, and public oversight.

At an absolute minimum, any City advocacy for legislation expanding surveillance or public-safety technology authority should require a separate affirmative Council vote after public notice and an opportunity to comment.

Thank you for considering this before the priorities are finalized.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Best for members who want a concise message that still includes all three requested outcomes.

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Option 2 — Personal

Subject: Concern about undefined “responsible technologies” language

Dear Mayor Kebler and Councilors,

I’m writing because I’m concerned about the language in the draft 2027 legislative priorities directing Bend to “support expanding allowed uses of responsible technologies.”

I don’t think the City should decide in advance that expanded authority is the right outcome.

Bend already uses an increasingly connected set of public-safety technologies, including cameras, ALPR, evidence and records systems, real-time information tools, drones, transcription, and AI-assisted report writing.

Our experience with Flock showed why the details matter. Federal immigration agencies accessed Bend’s license-plate data 279 times in roughly three weeks because of a configuration setting that did not reflect the City’s intended policy.

That is exactly why “responsible” is not enough as a safeguard.

Before Bend’s staff or lobbyists support changing state law, the community should know what technology is involved, what authority would be expanded, what data would be affected, and what privacy and civil-rights protections would apply.

Please remove the sentence from the draft. If it remains in some form, please require any specific surveillance or public-safety technology expansion to come back before Council for a separate public vote.

Thank you for hearing from residents while this language can still be changed.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Best for members who want the message to sound more personal and locally grounded.

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Option 3 — Detailed

Subject: Request for specific Council oversight before surveillance-related lobbying

Dear Mayor Kebler and Members of the Bend City Council,

I'm writing regarding the draft 2027 State Legislative Priorities and Principles and, specifically, the Public Safety & Wildfire language stating that Bend should:

"Support expanding allowed uses of responsible technologies that strengthen public safety and service delivery."

I urge Council not to adopt this language as written.

My concern is not opposition to every use of technology. It is that the sentence establishes expansion as a City policy objective before identifying what technology is involved, what current legal restriction the City wants changed, or what safeguards would govern the resulting authority.

That matters because modern public-safety technology increasingly operates as an interconnected software ecosystem. Existing systems can gain materially new capabilities through configuration, licensing, API integration, software updates, new analytic tools, or changes in what the law permits agencies to do.

Bend has already experienced this locally. During the Flock pilot, federal immigration agencies accessed Bend Police ALPR data 279 times in roughly three weeks because a lookup setting remained at a national default. Bend's subsequent use of Axon Draft One presents a different governance issue: existing body-camera and transcription infrastructure became the basis for generative-AI police-report drafting without the City purchasing a new camera.

These examples demonstrate why the phrase "responsible technologies" does not create a meaningful standard on its own.

I respectfully ask Council to remove the sentence.

If Council wants to retain a technology-related principle, I recommend neutral language requiring proposed public-safety technologies to be evaluated individually for necessity, effectiveness, privacy, civil rights, data security, fiscal impact, transparency, and public oversight.

At minimum, Bend's legislative priorities should state that they do not provide standing authority for City staff, contracted lobbyists, or other City representatives to support legislation expanding surveillance, data collection, data sharing, biometric, artificial-intelligence, or related public-safety technology authority.

Any such advocacy should require a separate affirmative Council vote after the specific legislation and its privacy and civil-rights implications have been publicly identified on an agenda and residents have had an opportunity to comment.

The City should not decide first that authority should expand and determine the boundaries later.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Best for members who want to provide Council with the fullest explanation of the concern.