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March 2, 2015

TO: The Senate Finance Committee  
Senators Mark Hass, Brian Boquist, Herman Baertschiger Jr., Chris Edwards & Chuck Riley

Re: Public Hearing March 4<sup>th</sup> on SB 565 - Relating to tax credit for historic property rehabilitation.

Honorable Senators,

I would like to express my support for SB 565 and sincerely hope you will consider the benefit it can offer to historic preservation in the State of Oregon.

The community of Dayton is rooted in history. We are considered a “multiple resource area” because of the concentration of buildings we have that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Dayton, established by Joel Palmer in 1850, is proud of its rich agricultural heritage and history as an important river port.

We look forward to sharing our historic downtown with visitors as a heritage tourism destination. In order to be successful we must continue the façade improvement work of local property owners. The tax credit for historic property rehabilitation will prove instrumental in assisting building owners to complete important seismic upgrades and building restoration.

The vacant “Stuckey Building/Commercial Club” in downtown Dayton is a prime example of a building in need of assistance. This vacant two-story structure is the key anchor in our main business block, built in 1911 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In order for this to be a viable commercial space in our downtown it will require seismic retrofit as well as a full renovation/remodel.

As the owner of a 125 year old home, the property manager for 3 historic commercial buildings in Dayton’s downtown core and the Main Street Manager for the Dayton Community Development Association, I know first hand the costs associated with protecting and restoring our historic treasures. It is important we understand that true sustainability means saving and re-using these structures that were so carefully crafted a century ago. The tax credit can be the tipping point that allows for the investment in their future.

Respectfully submitted;

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