



**Testimony by Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp
in Support of HB 565 - “Revitalize Main Street”:
Establishing a State Historic Rehabilitation Fund and Tax Credit
for Certified Historic Property Rehabilitation Contributions**

For Public Hearing Scheduled on March 4, 2015, Before the
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

To Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Boquist, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Wilsonville supports SB 565, which establishes a State Historic Rehabilitation Fund and tax credit for certified historic property rehabilitation contributions.

Many of Oregon’s historic downtown Main Streets are in urgent need of investment. A rehabilitation tax incentive has been tested in 35 states and proven to multiply the number of historic redevelopment projects, create living wage jobs, restore community infrastructure and retain cultural identity. Equally important, an incentive creates safer, more energy efficient and seismically resilient buildings, while boosting tax receipts to the state and local governments.

While Wilsonville is a newer community and may have less opportunity to utilize the Act, we do have some historic structures that could qualify and support providing this economic-development tool to Oregon’s cities as a cost-effective method of encouraging private-sector investment that improves local communities.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO-PASS vote on SB 565 by the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville