



February 27, 2015

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue Members
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Sent via email to: Anna Grimes, Committee Assistant
Cc: State Senator Floyd Prozanski
Cc: State Representative Cedric Hayden

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue Members,

Cottage Grove Oregon's Historic Landmarks Commission fully endorses SB 565, The Revitalize Main Street Act. As Historic Landmarks Commissioners in our small town, we are proud to support, protect and preserve the largest intact historic downtown in Lane County.

Our entire downtown is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as Landmarks Commissioners we know all too well the challenges faced by the owners of the historic buildings that comprise our historic district. While their historic buildings constitute the bulk of what makes our small town unique, many building owners are unable to restore and repair them. In addition, investors looking to purchase historic buildings in our downtown struggle to make their investments pencil out and many simply look elsewhere. Yet these buildings play a crucial role in supporting the small businesses that comprise our lively and historic downtown.

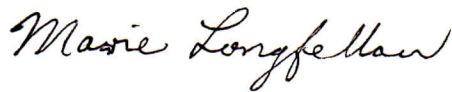
In order to make a compelling economic case for current and prospective owners to restore or rehabilitate their buildings, a robust incentive is needed. The Revitalize Main Street Act provides just that. The importance of the historic character and appeal of our small towns cannot be overstated; in our case a downtown full of buildings from another era forms the backbone of our community. Our downtown is attractive to visitors, but also cherished, fiercely guarded and protected by the people who live here. But for current and prospective building owners, the economic benefits of restoration and rehabilitation are often not clear. All too often neglect or demolition is the best economic choice. Passage of The Main Street Revitalization Act would help make the economic case for restoration and rehabilitation far more compelling than it is now.

The Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission urges you to vote in favor of SB 565. Support Oregon's effort to join the thirty-five states that already offer this incentive. The Revitalization of Main Street Act will provide the tools we all need to preserve and protect Oregon's historic buildings and support their owners – especially where it is needed most – in small rural towns like ours.

Sincerely,



David McClean
Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission Chair



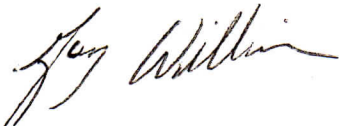
Marie Longfellow
Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission Vice-Chair



Lloyd Williams
Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commissioner



Cathy Bellavita
Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commissioner



Gary Williams
Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commissioner