



April 16, 2015

Chair Caddy McKeown
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
State Capitol
Salem, OR

Dear Rep. McKeown and Committee Members,

Restore Oregon is the only non-profit organization working statewide to preserve, reuse, and pass forward Oregon's historic places. We've been working for over five years on solutions to revitalize Oregon's traditional downtowns and want to voice our **support in principle for HB 3526**, which provides much-needed grant funds for participants in the Oregon Main Street program. These small business entrepreneurs are working hard to bring their downtowns back to life, creating jobs and reusing existing infrastructure in the process.

Investment in Oregon's historic downtowns and commercial districts is long overdue and a most logical, high-return investment for the state that will be particularly important in rural communities. In fact, Restore Oregon introduced [SB 565, the Revitalize Main Street Act](#), to attract investment in the rehabilitation of historic commercial buildings. Thirty-five other states have similar incentives and an independent economic impact study by EcoNorthwest projects it will stimulate a 4-fold increase in rehabilitation projects, hundreds of net new jobs, and millions more state and property tax revenues. HB 3526 would amplify the impact of SB 565.

Scores of Oregon's original downtowns are at a tipping point but with modest support from the state could regain their economic vitality. On behalf of the members of Restore Oregon, I urge your serious consideration of this bill.

Thank you,

Peggy Moretti
Executive Director