

On behalf of the City of St. Helens we extend this letter in support of HB 3526 authorizing the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant Program. The City's Planning Commission, Historic Landmarks Commission and St. Helens Economic Development Corporation (SHEDCO) have also considered and expressed support in providing important resources to further the Main Street Program in our community.

St. Helens is now in our fourth year of the Main Street Program and each successive year we have seen growth and improvement from the City's investment. Many positive collaborations have resulted from the program. For example, this weekend our local SHEDCO will be sponsoring a community clean-up day focused in the Main Street area and over 70 volunteers have preregistered for the event. The City has donated funds for plants, beauty bark and supplies and SOLVE will be providing a small grant, trash bags and the online registration tool. We anticipate this to be a successful event much improved from prior years where only a few core volunteers participated in the clean-up day.

Implementing the Main Street Program has improved our local economy, identity and general livability and we look forward to investing in the future. HB 3526 offers rural communities such as ours the necessary resources to succeed and we full support of approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide

Sincerely,

John Walsh