



CITY OF West Linn

April 17, 2015

Rep. Caddy McKeown, Chair
Committee on Transportation & Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3526: Establishment of Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant Program

Dear Chair McKeown and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our City's support for this proposal. Our City's Historic Willamette Main Street has been a part of the Clackamas County and Oregon Main Street program for six years. The Main Street program has played a critical role in the revitalization of our historic downtown, even during the recent economic downturn. The success of our historic main street is a central component to West Linn's overall economic development strategy. With the support of small businesses and dedicated volunteers, this program has successfully kept locally owned shops and services in our City and preserves the unique historic character of this area.

While our Historic Willamette Main Street operates a farmers market and effectively markets the district, the most lasting impacts have been made by coordinating funding opportunities to allow local businesses to help themselves. As an example, the Youth Music Project is currently renovating a previously vacated church structure along Willamette Falls Drive. This key revitalization project, along our main street, was initiated with a \$5,000 grant processed through the County's Main Street program.

Funding and support for other similar programs, which are being discussed as part of HB 3526, are vital to the success of Main Street programs such as ours and others throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Jordan', written over a horizontal line.

Chris Jordan, City Manager

City of West Linn

CC: West Linn City Council