



City of Canby

Canby Urban Renewal Agency Economic Development Department

April 17, 2015

To: House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Chair Caddy McKeown, Vice Chairs John Davis and Chris Gorsek and committee members Cliff Bentz, Jodi Hack, John Lively, and Susan McLain, Committee Administrator Patrick Brennan and Committee Assistant Nathan Reid.

RE: Support for House Bill 3526

Dear Committee Members and Staff:

I strongly support House Bill 3526 that establishes the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant Program. Canby has been an Oregon Transforming Main Street for five years and reaped many rewards for participating in the beloved and very effective Oregon Main Street Network Program. This proposed grant program will be invaluable in helping to move our program forward.

Main Street programs always struggle to find scarce resources and grant funds to implement economic development and historic preservation goals for downtowns. We are always looking for new tools and resources to leverage our efforts. The proposed grant program will be a powerful resource for us and other Oregon Main Street network members of the National Main Street Center in Oregon. Oregon Main Street programs have proven success in historic preservation and community revitalization. Additional grants could help to leverage the funding that is already in place across Oregon.

The city of Canby sees an immediate opportunity for this program. Our newly formed Historic Review Board is focused on historic preservation within the downtown and has identified several iconic buildings including our City Hall that would be ideal grant candidates. Matching funds to facilitate our downtown revitalization efforts would stimulate private investment, job creation and retention, establishing and expanding viable businesses. The city has also seen tremendous success in its revitalizations efforts based on a 2012 Market Study. Through market studies and programming, the city has been able to attract many new businesses to downtown Canby.

The City Council and the Canby community clearly want more downtown business and property development. More development in the downtown helps the community at large, supports the current business mix, and helps to attract Canby residents and tourists to our area. This is an objective that was identified in the Canby Community Vision adopted in 2013.

We urge your support for house Bill 3526. Please contact me if you have questions at 503-266-0772 or StickelJ@ci.canby.or.us. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

City of Canby Main Street Manager