



National Main Street Center

a subsidiary of the
National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

April 17, 2015

Oregon Transportation and Economic Development Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Oregon Transportation and Economic Development
Committee:

On behalf of the National Main Street Center, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3526 which would provide \$5 million to establish the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant Program. Nationally, Main Street has been dubbed “the most cost-effective form of economic development of any kind anywhere in the country,” and in your state, the Oregon Main Street program delivers on this promise by providing unparalleled support to individual communities and local economies.

Since 2007, the Oregon Main Street program has provided leadership and direction to communities across Oregon. In 2014, Oregon Main Street worked with 91 communities, providing hands-on technical assistance and programming aimed at comprehensive downtown revitalization. The results of this work are truly remarkable. Between 2010 and 2014, communities in Oregon taking part in the Main Street program have generated \$53,932,204 in private reinvestment, \$54,535,801 in public reinvestment, conducted 719 rehab projects, supported the development of 295 new businesses downtown, and generated 1,995 new jobs.

The proposed legislation establishing a new grant program for Main Streets across Oregon would help these communities yield even more impressive results in the future, benefitting the citizens of Oregon who call these communities home.

Thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to the continued success of downtowns throughout Oregon.

Sincerely,

Patrice Frey
President & CEO
National Main Street Center