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April 17, 2015

State Representative Tina Kotek
Speaker of the House
North/NE Portland, House District 44

RE: HB 3526-Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant Program

Dear House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development,

As the Executive Director of The Dalles Main Street Program in The Dalles, I urge your support and continued development of House Bill 3526. This Bill provides a critical financial tool needed by many potential downtown projects to be feasible and successful. These projects will create jobs, further economic development, and potentially, allow that first domino to fall, creating a cascade of investment and development projects in our historic downtowns.

Working as an AmeriCorps Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Volunteer as the Main Street Coordinator for The Dalles Main Street and then as it's Executive Director, I have worked with developers, small business owners, and City Officials who have current or past projects that have failed or stalled because they fell shy of the financing needed to make their project come to fruition. Several of these projects were catalytic developments and would have led to jobs and the economic activity that our downtowns desperately need.

The Dalles Main Street is currently engaged with several projects including; vertical housing development, historic theater preservation, hotel development, and others that could utilize the gap financing created by this bill.

House Bill 3526 provides the critical financing needed by many projects and could decide their success or failure. Without this financing, we miss out on an opportunity to see the immediate investment, preservation, and developed that our downtowns need today.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Matthew B. Klebes
Executive Director
The Dalles Main Street Program