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May 14, 2015

State Representative Tina Kotek

Speaker of the House

North/NE Portland, House District 44

RE: HB 5005 Testimony relating to HB 3526

Dear Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

As the Executive Director of The Dalles Main Street Program in The Dalles, I urge your support, continued development, and funding of HB 5005 relating to the lottery bond funding of HB 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.

The funding of HB 5005 and creation of HB 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