



May 13, 2015

Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Honorable Tobias Read, Co-Chair
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: House Bill 5005 Establishes amounts authorized for issuance of general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, certificates of participation and other financing agreements

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read and Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

I am writing you today in support of HB 5005 which gives funding to create a lottery-funded Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant Program to award grants to participants in the Oregon Main Street Network and members of the National Main Street Center to preserve and revitalize communities and economic development. The financial assistance that this bill could provide will be impactful and meaningful.

Currently, the City of Beaverton is an Exploring Main Street under the State's Main Street program. The grants that would be provided on an annual basis will provide communities such as Beaverton with new tools to rehabilitate designated downtown areas of Oregon.

The City of Beaverton works with businesses, property owners and the Beaverton Downtown Association in the downtown area to ensure it is a viable place to do business. Efforts include overseeing the Beaverton Main Street Program, which aims to transform and revitalize our historic downtown area using the nationally recognized 4-Point approach which has an underlying historic preservation framework. Beaverton has developed other programs that are aligned to help achieve this same goal:

- The sign and façade improvement program;
- First Fridays event to bring people downtown after 5 p.m.;
- A downtown walking map that accentuates the businesses, buildings, people, and others.

Since the implementation of these programs, the downtown area has seen increased activity in tourism, but the funding has been a challenge to sustain. This grant program would help establish a meaningful source of funding that our downtown area could pursue for years to come. The funding also provides our local small businesses with an environment to grow and thrive in our community.

HB 5005 would be another valuable tool for Main Street property owners in Beaverton to support the restoration and revitalization efforts of our downtown. The city urges your support of HB 5005. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Twete
Community Development Director