



February 9, 2023

TO: Co-Chairs Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Pham and Members of the Committee,
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

**RE: SUPPORT HB 5527 - Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept Budget - Comments for
Heritage Division (Main Street funding, centralized database, staff)**

Please consider this letter of support for the work of the State Office of Historic Preservation and specifically support for the budget requests associated with:

- funding to upgrade IT, especially the Heritage Hub, a centralized database with a web-based user interface that is critically needed,
- \$20 million in lottery bond revenue for Main Street program, and
- additional staff for the Heritage Division.

As Oregon's only statewide non-profit historic preservation organization, Restore Oregon works with thousands of people across the state each year to preserve, reuse, and pass forward the historic places and spaces that embody Oregon's diverse cultural heritage. By helping our fellow citizens preserve our state's unique built, natural and cultural environments, we help celebrate and promote much of what makes Oregon special.

Our organization works in collaboration with the Heritage Division and understands that the department's needs, in this budget, are critical to the success of advancing the heritage of all Oregonians.

We appreciate the ability to provide this testimony in strong support of their work and ask that you consider our comments during the budget process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and support to this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nicole Possert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Possert
Executive Director