

Submitter: Erin Stephenson
On Behalf Of: Atticus Hotel
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

I am writing to share my strong support for the City of McMinnville's request for funding to support our Third Street Improvement projects as well as funding to address our community's homeless response. Both issues are key to the long term economic viability of our city and deserve support from the State of Oregon as important strategies to help lift up Oregonians.

-The Third Street Improvement project will help fund essential infrastructure needs in one of Oregon's top tourist destinations. Visitors drawn to Oregon for our pinot noir embrace downtown McMinnville's strength as a home base from which to experience the rest of the region, helping to spread the spend across the state. Funds will help ensure that McMinnville remains an economic powerhouse by ensuring downtown's infrastructure can meet the needs of the existing community and facilitate long term growth.

-As the county seat, McMinnville has experienced more challenges with houselessness than any other place in Yamhill County. The lack of beds for the population who needs them most has a negative impact on community resources, and has created headwinds for economic development efforts. McMinnville has proven itself to be a forward thinking city with thoughtful approaches to problems both large and small, but limited resources. Funds would help provide 100 beds in our community, a number that would completely alter the landscape for our community.

I sincerely hope that you will invest in McMinnville's future. A stronger McMinnville helps create a stronger Oregon.

Sincerely,

Erin Stephenson
Co-Owner
Atticus Hotel, 3rd Street Flats, Mack Theater, Cypress

Chair of the Board of Directors
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Oregon Tourism Commission