



May 5, 2023

**TO:** Co-chair Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey and Members of the Committee, Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

**RE: SUPPORT HB 5030, Section 12 (\$20m Main Street funding)**

Please consider this strong letter of support to pass Section 12 of the lottery fund bill to be used for Oregon's Main Street Revitalization grant program at the \$20million requested funding level.

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 close collaboration with the Heritage Division and has long supported the incredibly robust and successful Main Street program that does phenomenal work to manage this grant program.

We appreciate the ability to provide this testimony in strong support of their work to get critically needed grant dollars out to approximately 100 main street communities all over the state, mostly in rural communities. These are the communities that can definitely benefit from this funding and support.

The strongest point we can make is that these dollars can be a potential funding tool to enable new housing production in Main Street communities all across the state.

Since every community is impacted by the housing crisis, we must all do everything we can to think about meeting the housing production goals set by our Governor. This funding is yet another way through re-use of our existing buildings and infrastructure can be employed to help create faster housing solutions. Earlier this year, Oregon Heritage published [What's Up Downtown?](#) A playbook to activate the upper stories of buildings in Oregon's downtown main streets that currently are underutilized by as much as 50%. That's a lot of potential new housing that could be unlocked and made available if the funding barrier were reduced with these grant funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and support to this legislation.

Sincerely,

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

Nicole Possert  
Executive Director