

Please forward this letter for HB3526--House Committee on Rules meeting May 8th at 3pm
HR50

May 7, 2015

Dear Chair Hoyle and House Committee on Rules:

This letter is in support of HB 3526, Main Street Revitalization Grant Program. Albany has been a member of the Oregon Main Street Program for many years. We have received awards from the Oregon Main Street and Heritage Foundation for our revitalization efforts in our historic downtown.

Our Central Albany Revitalization Area urban renewal district has invested \$10 million of public Funds and leveraged \$75 million in private investment. If you have been to Albany recently, you will fully agree how urban renewal is vital to revitalizing historic buildings in Main Street downtowns.

Unfortunately, Albany's urban renewal funds cannot restore the most challenging historic buildings like our St. Francis Hotel. The St. Francis is listed as an endangered historic building on Restore Oregon's Most Endangered Places.

This Main Street Revitalization Grant Program could be the missing link Oregon needs to return beautiful historic buildings like the St. Francis to the stately elegance they held when they were new 100 years ago. This grant program is an investment in bringing new life to Oregon's history for the next century.

Thank you for considering investing in Oregon's history. Please support HB 3526.

Sincerely,

Sharon Konopa

Mayor of Albany