

Submitter: Leah Murray
On Behalf Of: Restore Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3190

I support HB 3190 and urge your support.

This bill would bring back a program that helps invest in our state's historic properties and ensure they are renovated and maintained responsibly. It would offer commercial properties a specially assessed value (calculated by the county assessor) for a ten-year benefit term exchange for making appropriate improvements to the historic property. It would be administered by the Oregon Historic Preservation Office, a division of Oregon Parks and Recreation, who can readily administer this new version as they are still managing the former program's enrolled properties.

Just when our "main streets," commercial corridors, and downtowns in places like Eugene, Springfield and other small communities in Lane County need an infusion of support and financial investment, HB 3190 can play an important role in helping invest and revitalize these properties. And, it also aligns with and helps leverage existing programs like the Main Street Revitalization grant fund. And, it would provide a long-term incentive as the benefit period is over ten years, which is an essential stabilizing benefit for downtowns.

Please pass this bill.