

Submitter: Bernadette Niederer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3190

HB 3190 reactivates the special assessment program that formed the backbone of preservation efforts in Oregon for many years by offering commercial properties a specially assessed value (calculated by the county assessor) for a ten-year benefit term in exchange for making appropriate improvements to historic properties.

Downtowns across the state need an infusion of support and financial investment. HB 3190 can play an important role in supporting revitalization and investment in Oregon main streets. HB 3190 aligns with existing successful programs like the Main Street Revitalization grant fund and incentivizes long-term investments. Indirectly, HB 3190 spurs increased housing production, specifically in the underutilized and vacant upper floors of commercial buildings.

As the President of Friends of Historic Albany, I support the return of the special assessment program and hope that it will be extended to private residential properties in the future.