

Submitter: Michael Rice

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3190

Please pass HB 3190.

I support HB 3190 which reauthorizes a version of Oregon's longtime Special Assessment for Historic Properties program. An earlier version of this program expired

last June and this bill will re-enact this financial tool/incentive specifically for commercial property owners.

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 in

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 across the state 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 our downtowns.

Additionally, HB 3190 could help spur increased housing production, specifically in the

underutilized and vacant upper floors of commercial buildings. This can help many struggling,

vacant, or underutilized properties in every community in our state.

Thank you.