

Oregon Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee,

HB 5531 represents a significant opportunity to make a lasting difference in our communities through and with the continued support of the Main Street Revitalization Grants.

1. The Main Street Revitalization Grant is essential for driving local communities' economic growth. by investing in infrastructure improvements, business development, and public amenities, this grant provides the resources necessary for downtown areas to thrive. A vibrant Main Street attracts businesses, retains talent, and fosters a sense of community pride.

2. Restoring Historical and Cultural Assets

Many Main Street areas are home to historical landmarks and cultural assets that define the character of a community. The grant funding allows for preserving and restoring these treasures, ensuring they remain integral parts of our towns and cities for generations to come.

3. Encouraging Public and Private Partnerships

The \$10 million requested in HB 5531 has the potential to catalyze further investment by leveraging public funds to attract private contributions. These collaborations can exponentially increase the impact of the grant, creating a ripple effect of economic and social benefits.

We request that the state continue its support of the Main Street Revitalization Grant Program with at least the \$10 million grant requested. Through this grant, our communities can empower local economies, preserve our heritage, and create thriving, sustainable downtowns.

We ask that our voice as concerned constituents be heard this Friday.

Remember, your support here at the state legislative level can help turn this vision of a revitalized Oregon into a reality.

Sincerely

Duane Thul

Former Mayor City of Weston