

Cathy Bellavita
78529 Halderman Rd.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424 541-942-9428

June 21, 2019

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2019 BUILD Grant Application – Main Street Revitalization Project; City of Cottage Grove, Oregon

Dear Honorable Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the City of Cottage Grove's application for a 2019 BUILD grant. I have closely followed the multi-year development of our city's Main Street Revitalization Project and as Chair of the Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission I am truly proud of the City's inclusion of the public every step of the way in the project's development.

Cottage Grove's Main Street has been the center of our city's commercial and social life since its founding over 125 years ago. In 1992 Main Street was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and since then our focus has been on creating a thriving commercial hub while still maintaining the district's historic character.

The Main Street Revitalization Project we are seeking funding for strikes a balance between preserving our historic resources and improving infrastructure and streetscapes that support commercial enterprises that attract residents, visitors and business to our downtown corridor. Supporting historic buildings that house businesses that are attractive to today's entrepreneurs are the focus of our Main Street Revitalization Project. Funding from the BUILD grant will ensure we can achieve that goal.

Beyond the goals of encouraging and attracting commercial enterprises, the BUILD grant will ensure we are able to complete the Main Street Revitalization Project's perhaps less glamorous goals of upgrading the antiquated sewer and water systems under Main Street, as well as improving the street's most basic safety features by removing the dangerous rise that has developed along the center divide as a result of years of repaving. Car doors routinely open directly onto the curb because of the steep angle that has developed over the years. This may sound trivial, but damaged car doors and Main Street's severely uneven sidewalks, are the most common complaints from residents, visitors and business owners parking and walking along Main Street.

Secretary Chao, funding from the 2019 BUILD grant would play a pivotal role in ensuring the City of Cottage Grove is able to implement the Main Street Revitalization Project that our community came together to create. BUILD grant funding would ensure our community will see our efforts become a reality.

Sincerely,



Cathy Bellavita
Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission