

July 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Cottage Grove has tremendous potential; and it has the passion to improve its historical downtown. And, we could use your help.

Here are three reasons why I'm writing this Letter of Support for the grant request.

1. **We're Working Hard to Improve Economic Health.** I'm investing \$1,500,000 in our Historic Downtown through the purchase and renovation of the "biggest, ugliest building" in the central core. Upon completion, this project will bring at least 30 jobs into the downtown. Upon completion, I plan to start construction on another major project in the downtown that will invest an additional \$5,000,000. Others business owners are also improving their buildings. Clearly, we believe in the potential of Cottage Grove. And, with your grant help, we can and will improve the economic health of our small, rural community.

2. **Safety and Accessibility is a Significant Need.** Not long ago on Main Street near my building, an elderly lady got out of the car's passenger side, tripped, and fell face down on the cement. Bleeding. Why? Because the City's sidewalks are unsafe. They're broken and uneven on nearly every block. Hazardous tree stumps are present in multiple locations.

Here's another example. When my wife and I have lunch at a downtown restaurant, she's unable to get out of the passenger door because the Main Street curbs are often too high for a car door to open. That's a big negative for accessibility.

Both of these examples illustrate the need to improve safety and accessibility. Your grant could help accomplish these.

3. **Quality of Life.** I'm a real estate developer and broker. In order to have a good quality of life for our community, we need private-sector, attractive amenities in our downtown. These will enrich the lives of our citizens. But we need public-sector improvements and repairs to our City's infrastructure. When completed, they both will make a huge difference.

Please help us help ourselves to improve our community by approving our grant request.

Sincerely,



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