SAMPLE LEGISLATIVE LETTER

Date

Senator or Representative Name

Address

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

[City Name]’s historic downtown is the cultural and economic core of our community. Members of our Main Street business association and city government are working hard to bring the district back from years of disinvestment, but still the price tag of building restoration, code upgrades, energy retrofits, and seismic retrofitting remains financially out of reach in many cases. The [insert building name(s) here] is an example.

We urge you to support and advocate for **The Revitalize Main Street Act** as a modest, cost-effective investment that will help revitalize our downtown and pay dividends for decades to come in the form of new jobs, income and property taxes, cultural heritage and tourism, business incubation, seismic safety, and the reuse of existing infrastructure.

The Revitalize Main Street Act would create a Historic Rehabilitation Incentive (HRI) in the form of a 25% rebate for the certified rehabilitation of historic commercial buildings – stores, hotels, theaters, apartments, factories, mills, etc. It would be funded by the auction of state income tax credits at a capped amount (similar to the film production credit), the money stays in Oregon, and we end up with long term, tangible, productive assets.

An economic impact study conducted by EcoNorthwest states that Oregon would be economically better off with an HRI. By 2018 with a state investment of just $10.6M we would see:

* 4X more buildings restored than without the state incentive.
* 1,369 jobs per year generating income of $25.5M.
* $2.3M net increase in property taxes per year to pay for schools and services.
* $13.3M new federal Historic Tax Credit dollars spent in Oregon per year.
* $35.8M net increase per year in direct development spending.

Historic Rehabilitation Incentives have been proven **effective in 35 other states** as a targeted means to attract private **investment** and **capture more federal tax dollars** in Oregon. This is particularly important in smaller towns where rents are lower.

It’s time for the state to invest in our Main Streets and pass the Revitalize Main Street Act in 2015.

Sincerely,

Name, Title