

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

Dear Alabama Leader:

Three years ago, I served as Honorary Chair for Main Street Alabama's first investment campaign. During that timeframe the organization thrived and downtowns across the state saw their revitalization efforts supported and elevated. I look forward to watching the organization continue its mission of bringing jobs, dollars and people back to Alabama's historic downtowns. That is why I am delighted, once again, to support Main Street Alabama by serving as Honorary Chair for this new five year campaign - Building Better Downtowns.

It is no secret that a downtown serves as a community's heart and cultural center. These districts define us as Alabamians, and function as small business incubators for the citizens and entrepreneurs of our state. Furthering economic development in Alabama requires making these areas conducive to small business development and growth.

Currently, Main Street Alabama serves 23 communities across the state, with a goal of adding 40 more downtowns in the next five years. This past summer, I had the privilege of attending a community visioning session conducted by Main Street Alabama staff and a nationally recognized resource team in one of our Designated Communities. Having the opportunity to read individual ideas that were then articulated into a community wide vision, gave me great hope for other downtowns across our state.

To ensure Main Street Alabama can continue offering vital services and position more Alabama downtowns for success, they need your financial support. Main Street Alabama continues to be an important ally and partner to two major initiatives of my Administration which include the economic development strategy, *Accelerate Alabama* and the Alabama Small Business Commission. If you share my concern for the future of Alabama's downtowns and the need for carefully focused economic and community development, please join me and other leaders in pledging your support to this essential program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bentley".

Robert Bentley
Governor