



Public Testimony in support of SB 319 and HB 2470

May 1, 2013

Sen. Ginny Burdick, Co-Chair
Rep. Phil Barnhart, Co-Chair
Sen. Larry George, Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Jules Bailey, Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Vicki Berger, Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Ted Ferrioli
Sen. Mark Hass
Sen. Diane Rosenbaum
Rep. Cliff Bentz
Rep. Jason Conger
Rep. John Davis
Rep. Sara Gelser
Rep. Tobias Read
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson

Chairs Burdick and Barnhart and members of the Joint Tax Credit Committee:

This week, the Portland Japanese Garden opens the most important art exhibition in its 50 year history – due in part to support from the Oregon Cultural Trust. This will be an exhibition of works by the artist Isamu Noguchi, one the most important artists of the 20th century and an artist who uniquely bridged both his American and Japanese heritage. We expect over 80,000 visitors to see this indoors and outdoors exhibition during the next three months. Visitors come from all corners of the State of Oregon, especially during the upcoming summer months.

We leverage every dollar received from the Cultural Trust, exponentially expanding the benefits of the tax credit. The Schnitzer CARE Foundation, Autzen Foundation, and local company Design Within Reach all have joined the Trust in sponsoring this exhibition. The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum is loaning the exhibition free of charge. The Portland Japanese Garden is also a major contributor to our region's \$3.8 billion local tourism industry and the 29,200 jobs supported by it. Our Garden directly supports 40 full-time jobs and 10 seasonal positions.

On behalf of the Portland Japanese Garden, our Board of Directors, our 6,000 members, and the 240,000 visitors we serve annually, I urge you to support Senate Bill 319 and House Bill 2470 for the renewal of the Oregon Cultural Trust Tax Credit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bloom".

Stephen D. Bloom
Chief Executive Officer