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Dear Representative Read, Senator Girod, and Members of the Joint Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of HB5030. I am Cynthia Rider, Executive Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

I, along with my colleagues and the Cultural Advocacy Coalition, are advocating for funding to support capital projects that will benefit the citizens of Oregon and enhance Oregon's cultural and tourism economy. The total amount requested for the four proposed projects is \$6.75 million. As part of this effort, OSF is requesting \$3 million to modernize our two oldest theaters and renovate our public courtyard known as "The Bricks".

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival was established in 1935. We serve an audience annually of 400,000 including 60,000 students. OSF employs over 575 theater professionals, has a volunteer staff of 600, and gives nearly 800 performances during our season from February through beginning of November. Over 85% of our audience comes from outside of the Rogue Valley so we are a major tourism draw for the state generating an economic impact of more than \$260 million.

The Allen Elizabethan Theatre, as well as the Angus Bowmer Theatre and the Festival's public courtyard – all require extensive renovation to address critical issues of operation safety, functionality and public access. OSF is undertaking a multi-stage program of renovation and modernization to improve our two oldest and largest venues and to provide improved access to the theaters and to the very popular "Green Show" series of free outdoor performances for all visitors, regardless of mobility.

At its foundation, the renovations are grounded in OSF's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Additions like the patron elevator in the Bowmer Theater will increase accessibility and inclusion by making it physically easier for patrons with all levels of ability to attend the OSF Green Show and plays. Though these three facilities have become imperfectly suited to OSF's needs, they have lasted a remarkable 45 years. In renovating the two theaters and The Bricks, OSF has sustainability in mind. We seek to be good stewards of both the artistic and physical legacies of our organizational forbearers, and to create and improve spaces that will last another five decades or more in support of OSF as a major cultural driver of economic vitality for Oregon.

