

April 6, 2017

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**VIA E-MAIL**

Chair, Representative Ann Lininger  
Vice-Chair, Representative Pam Marsh  
Vice-Chair, Representative David Brock Smith  
House Committee on Economic Development  
and Trade

**RE: Written Testimony in Support of HB 3139 with the -2 Amendment**

Dear Chair Lininger, Vice-Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith and Members of the Committee:

I have had the honor of serving on the Board of the High Desert Museum for 10 years. During that period we have emerged from serious financial stress to a point of relative stability. A key pillar of our financial progress has been the support of generous Oregonians and the State of Oregon. I was discouraged to learn that the Oregon Arts Commission changed its time-honored interpretation of the legislative definition of the arts, thereby excluding the museum from being a recipient of grants. In my judgment, this was an unfortunate and erroneous interpretation of state law. The proposed legislation would clarify the legislative intent and benefit not merely the High Desert Museum but other like-situated institutions, thereby ensuring that Oregon Arts Commission grant monies are distributed fairly throughout the State.

Very truly yours,



Thomas M. Triplett



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