

William Carwile  
2359 NW Lakeside Pl  
Bend, OR 97703

April 6, 2017

Subject: Support of House Bill (HB) 3139, with Amendment 2

Chair, House Committee on Economic Development and Trade

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

I was very pleased to learn that your Committee is considering a bill that would once again expand the definition of “art” as well as those efforts of museums to provide centers for art and the humanities within Oregon communities. The Legislature, in 1967, showed wisdom in providing for the Oregon Arts Commission. It is my understanding that the Legislature’s intent was to furnish resources to institutions such as the High Desert Museum and similar organizations in the rural parts of our state.

I am enthusiastic that HB3139-2 clearly articulates the original intent in that the definition specifically includes museums. This is clearly consistent with definition of art provided by the National Endowment for the Arts many years ago. The language in the bill will provide unambiguous direction to the Commission in terms of eligibility for funding, including direction that consideration be given to those institutions that serve less urban communities. Here Central Oregon the High Desert Museum provides the single critical institution to the cultural experiences of Oregonians of all ages.

The provisions of HB3139-2 are certainly not a new approach to supporting cultural opportunities for the populations of less urban regions of our state. When passed into law, the Bill will correct a misunderstanding and restore the policy that in the past provided opportunities for institutions like the High Desert Museum to compete for grant funding.

Thank you,  
William Carwile

CC: Representative Knute Buehler

