

April 6, 2017

VIA EMAIL ONLY ([hecdt.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hecdt.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov))

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 am writing in support of HB 3139 with the proposed -2 Amendment.

This issue came to my attention because I'm a member of the Board of Trustees of the High Desert Museum. ...The HDM lost some of its funding because of an Oregon Arts Commission change in its interpretation of SB 145. The interpretation change basically was that the Commission would only support programs that were only centered completely on art.

However please understand, my reasons for concern on this issue run much deeper than a specific Board membership. ...I am a resident of Portland but have long time family interest in the whole of our state. I am a fourth generation resident of Oregon who has lived here my whole life and raised my family here. My father's mother's parents and grandparents settled in Coos County, arriving here by covered Wagon before the turn of the century. My father's grandparents came to Oregon from Germany via Detroit in the early 1900s and my mother's parents came to Oregon via train from Ohio in 1928. I mention all of this to make sure you understand the depth of my love and commitment to this state. I have a strong investment in Oregon, including its art. Institutions like The High Desert Museum provide an important "Arts Education" service to rural Oregon communities, even if they aren't exclusively devoted to art. In fact, I believe art is better served by a broader view.

Specifically, Oregon has a rich art history that draws from the environment, the Native American cultures and the later inhabitants. There isn't another Oregon institution that captures better than the High Desert Museum, that combined art history. The wonderful Native American pieces of art, the historic and current "Art of the West," and the cultures and environments that have influenced and shaped that art are all brought together at The High Desert Museum.

Rural Oregon doesn't have the luxury of being able to support a quality institution dedicated only to art, but I believe the High Desert Museum does an amazing job of providing a spectacular insight into the art of Oregon. I hope the Arts Commission will see the "Arts" value of The High Desert Museum and other institutions like it.

The reason I am writing to support HB 3139 is because I believe the Oregon Arts Commission made a mistake in determining that arts institutions like The High Desert Museum are no longer eligible for grant funding. I think that the Commission strayed from the intent of SB 145, which was basically to encourage the arts to flourish throughout the state and not to focus on the type of art but rather the quality of the art. HB 3139 seeks to return to the original legislative intent of promoting quality art, whatever form, throughout the state.

I sincerely hope that the Oregon Legislature and the Oregon Arts Commission will work together to support Art programs that reach all of Oregon.

Thank you for your time!

Julie Drinkward