



April 7, 2017

Representative Ann Lininger, Chair
Representative Pam Marsh, Vice-Chair
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice-Chair

RE: Support for HB 3139 with the -2 Amendment

Dear Chair, Vice Chair's and Member of the Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Visitors Association, and our five hundred member businesses, I write to request your support for HB 3139-2. Specifically, HB 3139-2 articulates a very important definition of 'arts' in statute, reflecting the original legislative intent of the Oregon Arts Commission to fund arts organizations across all of Oregon.

In many smaller communities the cultural offerings of Oregon's art, history, geography and wildlife are combined under umbrella organizations and museums. The need for this corrective language is poignant for Oregonians residing outside major metro areas with more limited access to arts and culture programs. In Central Oregon, the High Desert Museum is the single most pivotal arts and culture asset for our communities providing regular art exhibits, workshops and community engagement in arts programs serving our school children, seniors and veterans at no cost. The arts contributions provided by rural partners in Oregon deserve equal support for the vital grant programs of the Oregon Arts Commission. We hope you will support the arts efforts of our rural communities with your support for HB 3139-2.

HB3139-2 more clearly defines who is eligible for funding from the Commission and directs the agency to examine regional parity in funding and access to arts and culture experiences when making eligibility and funding decisions. The language simply restores the status quo and allows arts and culture organizations that have previously been eligible to once again be eligible for competitive grant opportunities. Importantly, this legislation fills the gap between the statutes and policy so the Oregon Arts Commission has clear guidelines for funding arts and culture organizations throughout our State.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alana Hughson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Alana Hughson
President / CEO