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**From:** Kevin Barclay ·  
**Sent:** Friday, April 7, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** HECDT Exhibits  
**Subject:** Fwd: Written testimony in support of HB 3139 (with the -2 Amendment)

**April 7, 2017**

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

**RE: Support HB 3139 with the -2 Amendment**

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

I am writing to you in support of HB3139-2. As a long time advocate of arts and culture in Central Oregon I have been alarmed by decreasing state support for our region. This decrease in support coincides with diminished arts and culture venues in Central Oregon. Our most recent loss, the closing of Arts Central, eliminated the following successful programs: Art Station, VanGo, and Artists in Schools. VanGo and Artists in Schools provided art education to under-served children throughout a five county area (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Lake and Klamath counties). Nothing has replaced this critical program. While I write this letter I know of other successful programs that are in dire financial straits and may shutter within the year.

HB3139-2 can start to stem this tide by defining 'arts' more clearly. The definition of art and the work of museums is adopted from the National Endowment for the Arts. Moreover, this bill clarifies the original, 1967 legislative intent of the Commission to fund organizations like the High Desert Museum in communities where access to arts is more limited than more urban areas of the State. The new language in the bill more clearly delineates who is eligible for funding from the Commission and also directs the agency to examine regional parity in funding and access to arts and culture experiences when making eligibility and funding decisions. Not incidentally, the language change restores the status quo and allows arts and culture organizations that have previously been eligible and have received funding 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.

Sincerely,

Kevin Barclay  
Arts and Culture Alliance Chair

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