



April 7, 2017

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

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

**Re: Support for HB 3139-2**

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

As the Chief Advancement Officer of the Portland Art Museum and a member of the board of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition, I am writing in support of HB 3139-2. PAM recently lent more than 20 works in support of a major exhibition *The Art of a Nation* at the High Desert Museum that highlighted the history, people, and impact of the Works Progress Administration to create an immersive scene from the Great Depression. The exhibit ran from April 16 - October 2, 2016. PAM often lends works to the High Desert Museum and we value this institution as a place in central Oregon that can help us share our collection with new audiences.

HB 3139-2 articulates the definition of 'arts' in statute more clearly and includes museums specifically. The definition of art and the work of museums are 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 clearly delineates 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. 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,

JS May  
Chief Advancement Officer