



Board of Commissioners

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May 15, 2017

Senator Richard Devlin
Co-Chair, Joint Ways and Means Committee

Representative Nancy Nathanson
Co-Chair, Joint Ways and Means Committee

Senator Arnie Roblan
Member, Joint Ways and Means Committee

Representative David Gomberg
Member, Joint Ways and Means Committee

Re: Support for SB 5530 Cultural Capital Construction Projects / Newport Performing Arts Center

Dear Senators Devlin and Roblan, and Representatives Nathanson and Gomberg:

This biennium, Oregon will again lead the way in supporting diverse economic development opportunities by funding Cultural Capital Construction projects throughout the state through lottery funding as part of SB 5530. These projects are located in Newport, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Eugene, rural Josephine County, Bend and Portland. These projects will not only expand cultural and educational resources and offerings in Oregon, but will grow and diversify the economies in each of the regions they serve.

We have observed the contributions of the Newport Performing Arts Center (PAC) to the economic and cultural vitality of Lincoln County over the last 28 years. Residents and visitors alike have benefited from local, regional, national and even international performances and events in all variations of the performing arts. Resident arts teams, which include theatre, dance, and choral troupes, a world class symphony, and touring groups and individuals, provide entertainment and education year round in one of the most heavily used and attended community facilities in our county. Many other community events, festivals, educational activities and performances are held throughout the year.

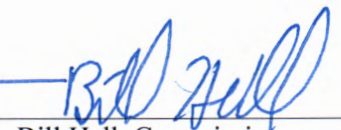
The PAC is publicly owned by the City of Newport, but operated by the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (OCCA), a nonprofit, utilizing the dedicated work and investment of hundreds of volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours annually. This public/private/community partnership sparked the development of the PAC decades ago and continues today to drive the expansion project which would be supported by the lottery funding. Already the public/private collaboration has contributed to completion of the first six phases of enhancement of the facility to the tune of \$1.7 million. The lottery funding will allow completion of the final expansion phases estimated to cost about \$2.9 million. The local campaign, "Entertain the Future", reflects the continued investment in growth of cultural tourism which benefits both future generations of coastal residents and visitors alike. OCCA estimates the enhanced economic impact of increased audiences over the 30 year useful life of project at \$7.4million.

We urge continued support for all the projects that are part of the Cultural Capital Construction package, and specifically thank you for support of our local project.

Sincerely,


Terry N. Thompson, Chair


Doug Hunt, Commissioner


Bill Hall, Commissioner