

May 15, 2017

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Hovey, Co-Chair

Re: SB5530

Dear Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction;

As a longtime resident of Benton County, I am requesting that you support the request for the \$500,000 from lottery-bond funded capital projects assembled by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition to facilitate the construction of the new Benton County Historical Societies (BCHS) Museum to be built in Corvallis.

Being a retired professional engineer, small business owner, and having taught at Oregon State University several years ago, I realize the importance of history when it comes to the sciences and our rapidly changing technology to provide the students and visitors an appreciation of how history has changed our way of life. Having seen the extensive collection of artifacts in the BCHS Collection Center that are historically and scientifically significant due in part to the former OSU Horner Collection being housed in the center, the new museum will greatly enhance the gallery space available to display some of these artifacts to tell the story. It was interesting a short time ago when I was on a tour with a young techy, that an old OSU computer (1960's vintage) was opened up and this young man had no idea what it was. When he was told what it was, he was totally in awe that it was a computer. It is important to show these artifacts to tell their stories.

The new museum will be built adjacent to the new Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Corvallis which, between the two projects, will provide a needed stimulus to renovate this area of Corvallis to increase the vibrancy for attracting visitors and investment to revitalize this area.

The \$500,000 request will provide a significant boost to economic development and show a commitment that cultural projects are important to Oregonians.

Your help in voting for this project will provide that commitment to helping achieve both of these goals.

Sincerely,



Neal Peterson
Retired Professional Engineer
Past President of BCHS Board of Directors
1667 Wooded Knolls Drive
Philomath, Oregon 97370
Ph. (541) 929-5718
E-mail: nlp@peak.org