

2113 NW Sunview Dr
Corvallis, OR 97330
annsmart1@comcast.net
May 18, 2017

Members of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 5530

Dear Members of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

I am writing to you on behalf of the new museum for Corvallis designed for the Benton County Historical Society by Allied Works Architecture of Portland. First, I would like to thank the legislature for helping the Society save the Horner Collection intact when OSU closed the Horner Museum in 1995. This was a unique collection in Oregon and served mid-valley children for years. It took an act of the legislature for OSU to be able to give the artifacts to a non-profit organization.

Since the closure of the Horner Museum, Corvallis has been without a museum and yet the Society holds the third largest collection of artifacts in the State of Oregon. We have had a generation of children grow up without easy access to a museum.

The new museum for Corvallis is a part of the lottery-bond funded capital projects across the state assembled by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition. The request for the Corvallis project is \$500,000. Not counting the land, our project is \$9.5 million and we have less than \$2 million left to raise.

We are excited to be working with a native Oregon architect Brad Cloepfil who is recognized globally for his museum designs. While Oregon has his Wieden + Kennedy World Headquarters and the Pacific Northwest College of Arts building, we do not have one of his museums. They are located in Calgary, New York City, Denver, St. Louis, Berkeley, Ann Arbor, and Seattle.

Besides creating an architectural jewel in downtown Corvallis, we are looking forward to once again sharing our 120,000 artifacts with the children in the mid-valley. Our current museum located in the former Philomath College, lacks adequate gallery space. It will become our expanded research and collection center while still housing some exhibits. Corvallis has free bus transportation which will make the museum accessible to local residents. In addition, we plan to reach out to all the schools and youth organizations in the county and neighboring counties to provide hands-on learning for school children.

We would appreciate your support of our request for an appropriation of \$500,000 and the rest of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition list. I would be glad to answer any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Smart
Co-Chair of the Corvallis Museum Project and
Retired Dean, Linn-Benton Community College