

Jo Anne and Cliff Trow

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May 18, 2017

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Re: SB 5530

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee,

The Benton County Historical Society is one component of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition's package of cultural facility proposals seeking \$6 million in lottery bond funding for major improvements to projects in Newport, Cave Junction, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Cottage Grove and Portland.

All are important – and need support. We are involved on many levels with the Benton County Historical Society which seeks funds to complete the capital campaign for a new museum in downtown Corvallis. There has been no museum in Corvallis since the closure of the OSU Horner Collection in the mid- 1990's. The planned world class, new museum designed by Allied Works Architecture in Portland, will fill that void – and become a new landmark in downtown Corvallis.

In addition, the recently adopted 2040 Vision for the City of Corvallis notes the importance of the cultural impact that a museum can make in the core of the city. A new museum will spur economic activity for the entire area through increased attendance, both visitors and county residents, and extended stays in Corvallis. Additionally, school children from across the region will take advantage of and be entranced by the ever-changing exhibits the new museum will provide. And Corvallis students will be able to access the museum's programming using public transit.

The Benton County Museum's current exhibit space in Philomath is limited by its size and the fact that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It simply does not have the space to publically display the very large [third largest historical collection in Oregon] and eclectic collection of artifacts acquired in the Horner Collection. The new downtown museum triples exhibition space and will allow a multitude of new educational opportunities for children and adults.

The Benton County Museum's capital campaign has raised over 80% of the funds needed for the project, and has created an operating reserve to guarantee sustained public programming for all.

We respectfully request your support of the \$6 million package of capital cultural projects including the Benton County Museum's request of \$500,000.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne J. Trow
Past President
Benton County Historical Society Board of Trustees

Cliff Trow
Former Oregon State Senator, District 18
1975 – 2003