

February 9, 2019

Representative John Lively, Chair
Representatives Daniel Bonham, Vice Chair
Representative Julie Fahey, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Fahey, and Committee Members:

I am writing to urge your support to extend the sunset for the tax credit that is helping to build the Oregon Cultural Trust. You will soon consider HB 2052 that lengthens the tax credit for 10 years and provides critical support for this unique and special entity.

I live in Estacada – a small rural community 30 miles southeast of Portland in Clackamas County – and I can tell you that funds from the Cultural Trust that go through the grant program of Clackamas County Cultural Coalition have had a huge impact on our town. We have received funds for our annual Estacada Summer Celebration – a 20-year-old arts and music festival that brings folks to our downtown core for amazing performances, hands on art experiences for kids, an art fair and the painting of a street labyrinth. The Artback Artist Cooperative – a group of local professional artists that has created a large-scale outdoor mural every year for the past 25 years – has also been regularly funded. As has Estacada Together, an arts education non-profit that sponsors extended school residencies in the Estacada Middle School. For the past five years these students have worked with blues singer Ellen Whyte on a songwriting/performance residency connected to their social studies curriculum that culminates in a community performance.

Thousands of Estacadans receive benefits every year because of this grant program that recognizes the needs of smaller communities and the impact that even a few thousand dollars can have. We are a stronger and more beautiful town because of it.

Thank you for considering this 10-year extension. We are so fortunate in Oregon to have the Cultural Trust and I hope you recognize it for the treasure it is.

And thank you for all the work you do for our amazing state!

Jane Reid

Chair, Estacada Together

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