



February 12, 2019

House Committee on Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing you today to encourage your full support for SB 2052, extending the sunset for tax credit for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development Account. As the Associate Artistic Director at Bag&Baggage Productions, a theatre company that continues to be one of the largest cultural nonprofits in Washington County, as well as the only professional performing arts organization in the City of Hillsboro, I can speak first-hand to the tremendously positive impact the Cultural Tax Credit has on our company — via the invaluable work of the Oregon Cultural Trust — helping to facilitate the work we do within our community.

We believe in the transformative power of theatre — and of all arts and culture — in bringing together diverse audiences, encouraging empathy, and providing shared experiences that build strong community foundations. In a 2019 America that sometimes seems more divided than unified, our work is crucial, now more than ever, in maintaining communities where all citizens are able to live their best lives, continuing to help Oregon uphold its reputation as an incredibly vibrant place to live, work, and play.

Nonprofit arts and culture organizations like ours rely heavily upon support from both the private and public sectors; while individual donors and private foundations are crucial to the success of our company, the demonstrated support of our State government is perhaps even more critical. As we all work to better the society in which we live and work, the importance of access to cultural experiences for every Oregonian cannot be overstated. As a suburban institution, the support of the Cultural Trust is felt even more deeply at Bag&Baggage, as arts and culture experiences are far more limited in our community, and access to these life-enriching activities becomes a far greater challenge than is in urban areas. By extending the sunset for tax credit for contributions for another ten years, you will enable our company, and countless other organizations, to continue to do our work from a place of solid financial footing, creating an ever-increasing amount of cultural opportunities in our state, and demonstrating a commitment to the quality of life of all Oregonians.

Thank you for the important work you do for our communities, families, and organizations. You do indeed make us proud to call Oregon home.

Sincerely,

Cassie Greer
Associate Artistic Director
(Interim Artistic Director, effective March 1st)
Bag&Baggage Productions
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