

>>> Dear Members of the Oregon House Committee for Economic Development

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>>> I understand that the Oregon Cultural Trust tax credit extension is coming up for review by your committee tomorrow afternoon at 1:00pm Monday, February 18th.

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>>> To me, the OCT is one of the most brilliant things the State of Oregon has ever done. It actually makes me feel like some of my taxes are being extremely well spent.

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>>> The program which creates a 50% match for cultural donations has been a great incentive to over 1500 cultural organizations in communities scattered throughout the state. It makes Oregon a place where culture actually happens.

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>>> From my experience on the board of the Rogue Valley Symphony Orchestra, I know it had allowed us to commission and perform World Premier symphonies. It has also supported the symphony's ongoing Link-Up program, providing music in K-12 classes that no longer have the resources for music in the public schools.

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>>> In addition to delight, entertainment, and education, cultural events continue to bring economic prosperity to our state. I know in Ashland, tourism that is created by cultural events is our number one industry.

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>>> I hope you will wholeheartedly support HB2052 and extend the Oregon Cultural Trust program for an additional 10 years.

>>> Thank you.

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>>> Sincerely,

>>> Barry Thalden

>>> Ashland, Oregon

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>>> Sent from my iPhone