



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Heritage Commission

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House Committee on Economic Development

RE: HB 2132, Oregon Cultural Trust

Extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development Account.



Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing on behalf of the Oregon Heritage Commission to express strong support for the extension of the sunset for the tax credit for contribution to the Oregon Cultural Trust for six years. The Oregon Heritage Commission consists of nine members of the public appointed by the Governor and nine advisory members that represent state agencies. The Commission is the primary agency for coordination of heritage activities and works with more than 1,000 organizations in the state.

As one of five statewide partners of the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Heritage Commission annually receives funds distributed by the Trust. The Commission uses these funds to support programs and services related to heritage across the state. In the past, the Commission has used these funds to make impact such as:

- **Grants to Heritage All-Star Communities:** Support projects for seven communities that have coordinated heritage efforts for greater impact.
- **Technical Assistance Grants:** Provide grant assistance to regional partner locations.
- **Heritage Mentor Corps Program:** Fund the training of 20+ trained professionals to provide voluntary assistance to heritage groups in need of technical assistance.
- **Support for the UO digital newspaper project:** Provided funding as match to a large federal grant that kick-started the invaluable statewide resource.
- **Heritage Tourism Workshops:** Connected over 150 people in 7 communities in Oregon to tourism infrastructure in their communities.
- **Statewide Heritage Research:** Conduct research to aid heritage organizations in awareness and advocacy, such as the 2018 Digital Heritage Collections Survey.
- **Scholarships to attend the Oregon Heritage Summit:** Provide financial assistance.

Additionally, regular meetings with the Trust's statewide partners provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, coordinate programs, and support one another's work, strengthening the cultural network of the state.

The Oregon Heritage Commission recognizes that the tax credit is an important component in funding the Trust, which in turn provides valuable financial support for cultural and heritage work in the state. The Oregon Heritage Commission strongly supports HB 2132 and extending the sunset for the tax credit for six years.

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with you.

Sincerely,

Todd Kepple

Chair of the Oregon Heritage Commission

