

House Committee on Revenue

RE: Support Letter, HB 2132, Oregon Cultural Trust

Extends sunset six years for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development Account

Members of the Committee:

My name is Norm Smith, and I reside in Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon, where I have lived for 22 years. I am an attorney (and President *Emeritus* of The Ford Family Foundation).

My wife, Kathy, and I have been contributors to the Oregon Cultural Trust annually since inception, which is predicated on our other matching support of arts and cultural organizations across Oregon.

We are especially keen on the Trust's impacts in rural Oregon and on the youth who live in the State's smaller and smallest communities.

The Trust is one of the best examples of public policy that leverages a State investment with private and personal donations from our citizens. Respected research also shows that the economic impact of support for cultural organizations generates local revenues, jobs and educational opportunities close to home.

This formula has stood the test of time and experience. Therefore, there is little risk in not only extending the sunset date for a future review by our policy makers but granting the maximum extension available in HB 2132. That decision provides the ability to plan and grow the Trust as an institution, and to maintain the growing trust of Oregonians, who willingly contribute to this important ecosystem.

This program engages people in Douglas County in helping to disburse funds to energized and successful cultural organizations. They in turn touch the lives of many more of our neighbors.

Your support of HB 2132 would be appreciated by many. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

/s/ Norm Smith

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