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April 2, 2019

House Committee on Economic Development

RE: HB 2132, Oregon Cultural Trust

Dear Committee Members,

As the Executive Director of the Oregon Folklife Network, our state's designated Folk & Traditional Arts Program, I strongly urge you to give your full support to extending the sunset for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development Account for six years.

The OCT impacts communities, individuals, and Tribes statewide, as does OFN. Without the generous Trust support that OFN has received since 2010, we would not exist. Those early funds paid our first manager to start day-to-day operations and then write the successful state and federal grants that have provided services across Oregon. Trust support has made possible OFN's:

- Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program that has so far funded 42 apprenticeships (master artists teaching others in their cultural communities or Tribes),
- Statewide folklife survey (355 culture keepers documented so far in 29 counties and among 5 of Oregon's 9 federally recognized Tribes),
- Culture Keepers Roster (nearly 200 artist profiles), and
- highly successful Culture Fest program (partnerships with cultural organizations and/or Tribes to feature documented and rostered traditional artists for public programs).

Please see attached OFN's FY2018 Annual Report, which further details what we've accomplished; without the OCT, none of this would have been possible.

Thank you so very much for previous support for Oregon's Cultural Trust and its tax credit; both are huge gifts to our state and its diverse communities and Tribes as well as providing a lovely incentive for everyone to give to Trust certified organizations and the OCT itself for that highly valuable tax credit. Oregon is so very lucky to have the OCT and tax credit in place, and I urge you to approve both for an additional six years.

Sincerely,

Rachelle H Saltzman, PhD  
Executive Director, Oregon Folklife Network

