

PORTLAND OPERA

Testimony to and in reference to:

House Committee on Economic Development

RE: HB 2132, Oregon Cultural Trust Tax Credit

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

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Christopher Mattaliano, General Director of Portland Opera. On behalf of Portland Opera and the more than 400 artists that we employ each year, I ask for your full support for extending the sunset for the tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development Account for six years.

The Oregon Cultural Trust's impact throughout the state of Oregon is vast. Their support helps create new and inventive artistic endeavors, cultivate the next generation with a love of music, art, or creative expression, and helps underserved populations experience a world full of life, color and magic. Arts organizations are also vital economic drivers, employing local artists and contributing strongly to Oregon's economic strength.

With the recent changes in the Federal 2017 tax code, state tax credit incentives are imperative now more than ever. Non-profits across the country are seeing declining philanthropic support due to this new tax code, so it is vital that Oregon does its part to keep our cultural non-profit organizations stable and thriving.

Thank you for your consideration to support our cultural non-profits and artistic opportunities for every Oregonian.

Best regards,

Chris

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