

April 19, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Committee
Testimony for District 5, April 24

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, Rayfield; Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, Smith, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Margaret Juenke and I live in Lincoln City. As you consider how to balance the state budget and use federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, I urge you to move Oregon forward by ensuring an equitable economic recovery for all.

Specifically, please prioritize infrastructure projects that have been fully vetted and put on hold due to lottery bond defunding in 2020 in District 5. This District, especially the Oregon Coast, has been disproportionately hit by both Covid 19 restrictions and the Labor Day Echo Mountain Fire. Infrastructure projects would be a big boon to our economic impact, add to our arts and culture industry, and of course, our tourism industry. Of particular note, I especially implore you to fund the Lincoln City Cultural Center Plaza project. This project supports all three major efforts: economic impact, tourism industry, arts and culture, while also enhancing and encouraging retirees to choose Lincoln City as a place to retire, spend their funds, and participate in the burgeoning arts and culture community here.

As a founding member of the Lincoln City Cultural Center, a 54-year resident and former business owner, I encourage you to invest in local shovel-ready projects that will have wide ranging impacts to this community. The community has already raised the funds necessary to begin Phase 1, and we look forward to implementing Phase 2 with the \$1.8 million required to transform the grounds of the Lincoln City Cultural Center into a plaza, with smooth, accessible pathways, gathering places, well-designed parking, outdoor program areas, public art and vendor amenities, which will greet the 8.8 million cars who pass our center on Highway 101 annually.

Thank you for your consideration,

Margaret Juenke

margaretpjuenke@gmail.com

