



February 8, 2022

Dear House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 4040 during this legislative session. This bill would allocate much needed support to cultural institutions that continue to face pandemic-related losses.

Our small-but-mighty museum is in an unfortunate situation in relation to the pandemic. Our board planned for 2020 to be a growth year, increasing staffing from .75 to 2.5 FTE at the end of 2019 with the promise of support from our City and Port districts to become fully self-sustaining by 2023. Due to restrictions on tourism, they were understandably not able to support our organizational growth at the planned levels in 2020 or 2021. We were grateful to receive support from PPP and CRCFS funding to supplement our budget and retain our brand-new staff through the 2020 pandemic closures.

While we are only open seasonally, at our new staffing levels we still managed to make a \$89,000 impact on our local economy in 2020 and a \$104,000 impact in 2021. Our museum was the first in the Gorge to re-open after the pandemic closures were lifted in late June 2020, but saw only 22% of its typical foot traffic during that season. During the 2021 season, we were plagued by staffing shortages and had to restructure our organizational chart to absorb customer service duties into our other roles, making those positions less efficient and reducing their capacity to complete strategic and fundraising duties.

Additional funding is important to the continued recovery of rural cultural organizations like ours. I therefore urge you to please support HB 4040.

Sincerely,

Janice Crane
Executive Director

FRIENDS OF THE CASCADE LOCKS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

417 SW Portage Road ♦ P.O. Box 321 ♦ Cascade Locks, OR 97014
541-374-8535 ♦ www.cascadelocksmuseum.org ♦ Tax ID 46-3180540