

Submitter: Julie Drinkward

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Measure: HB4040

February 9, 2022

Representative John Lively, Chairman
House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
Salem OR. 97301

Re: HB 4040

Chairman Lively and Members of the House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity,

Please continue your support of Oregon's cultural sector as we work to deal with pandemic issues. Please support the passage of HB 4040.

I am writing as a life long Oregonian and a 10 year member of the Board of Trustees at The High Desert Museum. ...and when I say life long Oregonian, I mean over 70 years. Over those years I've been involved with numerous nonprofit organizations and The High Desert Museum stands out as a gem that Oregon should do everything to help keep going and growing. More currently critical, however, it fills such an important niche in an area of our state that desperately needs economic and cultural support.

You, as leaders and stewards of our state's well being, I'm sure are well aware of the value generally of The High Desert Museum. There is something specific about the Museum, however that I want to highlight. ...The High Desert Museum is poised to be a wonderful tool and it is ready to serve Oregon's pandemic recovery. But, it does need your financial help to do this.

During the pandemic, The High Desert Museum has proved its versatility and ability to support Oregonians in valuable ways, effectively using what resources it has to serve the community. Not only has it managed to keep its doors and programs open to as many as safely possible, it has taken that extra step to identify where it can be most helpful to the community and THEN go out and do it. For example, they identified La Pine as an area that was dangerously feeling the economic struggles of Covid. Museum staff reached out to the La Pine schools and identified the most at risk students. THEN they physically brought computers, support staff for teachers and programs (including the program leaders) from the Museum directly to the schools. There, they helped keep these "at risk" kids in a safe school setting, and

keep them learning. The Museum staff's efforts and initiative made a huge impact for those families. If you continue to provide more support to The High Desert Museum, you can be assured the Museum will use those resources in a thoughtful, meaningful manor.

The High Desert Museum is ready to serve Oregon in positive, and currently very valuable ways. The Museum has impressive leadership, an amazing staff in place and a great record for using its resources wisely to make an impact on our State. Please continue to provide it with the financial support it needs to keep going.

Thank you for your consideration,
Julie Drinkward