



The Honorable Janelle Bynum
Chair, House Committee on Economic Development
and Small Business
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon. 97301

RE: HB 3532, Trust for Cultural Development Administrative Cap Change

Dear Chair Bynum and Committee Members:

My name is Kate Marsh and I am a volunteer for the Harney County Cultural Coalition (HCCC), and president of the governing board. I am writing to you today in support of HB 3532, a revenue neutral bill to change the administrative spending cap of the Trust for Cultural Development (dba The Oregon Cultural Trust – OCT). Our county's Cultural Coalition supports this bill, which will enable the Trust to better serve grantees through deeper organizational capacity.

The Oregon Cultural Trust is a unique-to-the-nation vehicle for supporting over 1500 eligible nonprofits with grant funds to meet our shared mission of making sure every Oregonian has access to arts and culture in their community. Oregonians have built a corpus of over \$30 million dollars using the tax credit generously provided by the state. The original administrative cap of \$400,000 needs to be modernized to keep pace with the current demands and needs of Oregon's cultural organizations, the 45 county and tribal coalitions, and the five statewide agency partners currently supported. HB 3532 is a revenue neutral policy change that will exponentially increase our collective capacity to serve each cultural community.

In the frontier community of Harney County we rely on the administrative effectiveness of the Trust to manage funding that is essential for us to lend support to a wide variety of programs. We have funded programs as different as our ballet school performances, black powder firearms exhibitions, sheet music for the community orchestra and choir, and the library and museum's joint effort to digitize their oral history and artifact collections. Greater administrative support and technical assistance from OCT would enable us to better organize information and report on our programs in a timely manner. In addition, we rely on information and advice from the Trust as regards our relationships with the statewide partners, from whom some of our cultural entities also receive funding.

It has become a hallmark of Harney County to build collective understanding amongst rural community organizations and cultural efforts. We know the power of creativity, and we know the economic impacts that arts and culture bring to our state. Recovery from the pandemic continues, and not only do we need more public financial support, but we need to update our tools and support our dedicated volunteer networks to serve us effectively during these uncertain times.

On behalf of the board of the Harney County Cultural Coalition, I strongly urge your support for HB 3532. Thank you for the opportunity to hear directly from the field about the important work of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Sincerely,

Kate Marsh
Kate Marsh, President