

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:

I am writing to express my strong support for Oregon House Bill 3532, which proposes important changes to the funding structure of the Oregon Cultural Trust on behalf of the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition and the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg. As a resident of Oregon and an arts administration professional, I am keenly aware of the critical role that the Cultural Trust plays in promoting and supporting arts and culture throughout the state.

The proposed changes to the funding structure of the Cultural Trust, as outlined in HB 3532, would replace the current administrative spending cap of \$400,000 with a new cap of up to 5% of the trust permanent fund. This change would enable the Cultural Trust to better keep up with the costs of serving the cultural sector, and would allow the trust to address capacity issues facing many county and tribal coalitions.

By replacing the specific dollar limitation with an annual amount not to exceed five percent of the value of the permanent fund, the proposed changes would give Business Oregon, the Trust Board of Directors, and Trust staff the ability to analyze and meet the administrative and operating needs of the Cultural Trust. This would help to ensure that the Cultural Trust can effectively serve the needs of the cultural sector in Oregon.

The Oregon Cultural Trust is a valuable resource for our state, encouraging Oregonians to donate to one or more of the 1,500+ cultural nonprofits in the state and making a matching donation to the Trust. The donation to the Trust is a 100% state tax credit, and each year the Trust raises about \$5.5 million. These funds are allocated to grant-making programs and services, as well as a permanent fund which is currently valued at \$30 million.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition and rural Oregonians across the state, I urge you to support Oregon House Bill 3532 and the proposed changes to the funding structure of the Oregon Cultural Trust. By doing so, you will be supporting the vital role that the Cultural Trust plays in promoting and supporting arts and culture throughout our state.

Sincerely,



Sean Andries
Executive Director, Chehalem Cultural Center
President, Yamhill County Cultural Coalition
Board Member, Oregon Cultural Trust