

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

W I L D L I F E *and* L I V I N G H I S T O R Y

March 29, 2023

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 1064 – Modernizing signature collection for Oregon Charitable Checkoff Program participation

Dear Co-Chairs Meek and Boquist and committee members Findley, Golden and Jama,

The High Desert Museum respectfully requests your support of SB 1064 with a do pass vote at the hearing scheduled for March 27, 2023. The purpose of SB 1064 is to modernize the signature requirement for qualified charities to receive contributions during tax filing by means of checkoff through the Oregon Charitable Checkoff Program (OCCP).

We work alongside many outstanding Oregon-based 501(c)3 organizations that enrich lives and build vitally needed resources for the people of Oregon. Nonprofits serve our state in unique ways that cannot be replicated by the government or by the private sector. The strength of Oregon's charitable sector is more important today than ever.

- The current requirements are inequitable, inefficient and onerous – no new charities have been added by the Oregon Charitable Checkoff Commission (OCCP) in almost ten years.
- The last charity to apply and be accepted by the OCCP Commission did so, not through a grass-roots method, but by contracting with a paid signature collection service, demonstrating the impractical nature of the current rules.
- Current estimates for hiring contractors to secure the required 10,000 in-person signatures range \$100,000 to \$200,000 +.

Those funds could be better used to fulfill state priorities. Particularly in these uncertain economic times, the arts and culture sector in Oregon needs help to serve our audiences with rich, cultural experiences. We are part of Oregon's second paycheck and bring economic impact to our regions and our quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you would like to discuss how SB 1064 can make Oregon's Charitable Checkoff program more equitable and productive for communities across Oregon.

Sincerely,



Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D.
Executive Director