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April 28, 2023

The Honorable Mark Meek and Nancy Nathanson
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon. 97301

RE: HB 2079, Study of Historic Property Preservation

Dear Senator Meek, Representative Nathanson, and Committee Members:

Thank you for scheduling HB 2079, for a public hearing this week. This bill could help us find a pathway forward for Oregon's many historic properties. As a state, we want to incentivize and stabilize Oregon's founding treasures and we have few to no tools to do so. We urge your support for this effort to gather data to inform a future policy path.

We represent over 350 members across the state from individual artists to large organizations like the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, from tribal coalitions to historic properties, from traveling civics exhibits to place-based restorations. We know the power of creativity to build communities and collective understanding. Our mission is to make sure every Oregonian has access to creativity in their communities across our state. We consider historically preserved properties to be among our cultural assets. We are hoping by studying potential approaches we can collectively find a method by which we can help better care for our historical treasures.

We know you appreciate that our sector has been among the hardest hit from the pandemic and recovery continues. We are grateful for the support policymakers have provided and we hope you will understand that this is part of our ecosystem and we believe HB 2079 will help illuminate potential future options.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

J.S. May, Chairman, CACO