Submitter: Andrea Tichy

On Behalf Of: Cultural Coalition of Washington County

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development

Measure: SB5524

I am here representing the Cultural Coalition of Washington County, where I serve as Board Chair, in support of the Oregon Cultural Trust. I am also privileged to be on the senior team at Portland Opera, one of our region's anchor arts organizations.

The Cultural Coalition of Washington County helps Oregon Cultural Trust achieve its mission in our community, by serving as one of the state's 45 county and tribal coalitions. Our all-volunteer board is committed to promoting the cultural identity, quality of life, and economic vitality of Washington Co, and it's more than 100 non-profit arts, cultural, and heritage organizations. Since 2015, we've awarded more than four-hundred thousand dollars in community grants, including seventeen-thousand dollars in urgently needed COVID-relief funding. On behalf of our community grant recipients: thank you for that emergency support.

The arts mean business: we know that the economic impact of our sector is vital to local economies, and that the arts give us a mode of connecting, place-making, building community, and supporting civic dialogue. In order for us to support a vital and thriving Washington County, we need to make sure that the Oregon Cultural Trust is supported.

I've worked in arts administration for over two decades, and I have seen, firsthand, how this sector has transformed and is transforming. The fact of the matter is that the current demands and needs of our cultural sector have outpaced the Trust's ability to effectively serve the field and donors—and that, in turn, impacts our ability to effectively serve our local communities as part of the constellation of coalitions that further the impact of OCT all across the state. By removing the administrative cap for OCT, and replacing it with a percentage of the value of the permanent fund, you are positioning OCT for sustainability while our creative economy recovers, and helping stabilize our communities, while we plan for a brighter future for the arts, cultural, and heritage sectors of Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to see you soon at the opera, or at one of the many Washington County arts and cultural events happening this year.