



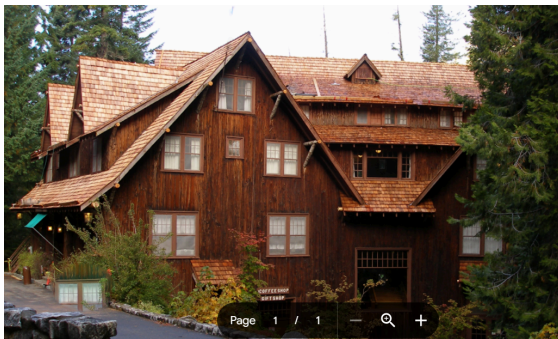
February 5, 2023

Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair
Honorable Ed Diehl and Daniel Nguyen, Vice Chairs and Committee Members
House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Oregon Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SUPPORT HB 4124 - Arts/Culture/Heritage Funding for Capital and Resiliency

We urge you to **support HB 4124** as it seeks to accomplish two critical items – fund the 14 projects remaining on the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF) slate and provides a one time investment that infuses the arts/culture/heritage sector with increased resiliency. With \$27 million in funding, this bill will boost local economies and achieve incredible leverage of this investment as the arts/culture/heritage sector as a major economic driver and jobs producer in our State.

As Oregon's only statewide non-profit historic preservation organization, **Restore Oregon works with thousands of people across the state each year to preserve, reuse, and pass forward the historic places and spaces that embody Oregon's diverse cultural heritage.** By helping our fellow citizens preserve our state's unique built, natural and cultural environments, we help celebrate and promote the places and spaces that make Oregon special and distinct. **Restore Oregon wholeheartedly supports this total request for one time funding support.**



(Restoring the Oregon Caves' Chateau)

The slate of CREF capital projects include many historic preservation projects from the Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau and the Southern Oregon Historical Society to Columbia County Museum Association and Clatsop County Historical Society with wonderful restoration projects in Salem, Eugene, and Portland. The Chateau at the Oregon Caves is one of Oregon's

few National Historic Landmarks and has been on our Most Endangered Places program since 2016.

The qualified cultural organizations who are eligible for resiliency one-time grant funding are the backbone of our State's creative arts, cultural and heritage economy and help stimulate and revitalize the communities in which they work all across the state. Many organizations, including ours, are struggling to survive and this funding can help stabilize and keep them afloat while building back their audiences and supporters. It's a tiny investment for a big impact on the communities that they serve.

We appreciate the ability to provide this testimony in strong support of HB 4124. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and support to this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Possert".

Nicole Possert
Executive Director

cc: Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon