

Good afternoon, Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Aletha Bonebrake, V.P. Eastern Oregon Regional Theater, Baker City, on behalf of CREF Slate and Baker Orpheum Theatre Structural Upgrades.,

Thank you for letting me testify once more to our capital project in Baker city, the Baker Orpheum Theater and the value the CREF Slate has on realizing success of community projects in rural communities. For 8 years we have raised over \$2 million to renovate an historic building, originally a vaudeville and later performing arts theater, in an 1889 building on Main Street, Baker City, which is now the heart of a new tourism industry replacing timber and mining. This project addresses the pride we have in historic reclamation and the economic viability of our community. Because there was never a foundation/basement to this portion of a single central building comprising three-fourths of a City block, our project is to construct micropiles to bedrock, a concrete floor and footings that will stabilize the already repaired masonry walls between our theater and neighboring businesses, to ensure seismic stability and the ability to continue the renovation. This project is deeply desired by our local non-profit performing arts groups, for theater, choirs, orchestras, the traveling Missoula summer children's theater, sponsored by Crossroads Arts Center, the local school district benefit for its theater program and as a community gathering place to host traveling performing artists to expand cultural experience and growth for our children and families. This investment by the State will make the completion of this much desired and needed performing arts center for Baker City possible, giving wings to the local investment to date and quality of life in our County Seat. We are honored to have been chosen as one shovel-ready project of the CREF Slate selected by the Oregon Cultural Advocacy Coalition, committed to bringing this important project to fruition and ask for your heartfelt support of the entire CREF slate for the meaningful capital projects supported by their communities.

Thank You.