From: Alice H. Rampton
To: JWMCC Exhibits
Subject: Written Testimony for the record to committee staff re: SB5530
Date: Sunday, May 14, 2017 7:55:53 PM

From the Desk of Mark and Alice Rampton

May 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern

We are both proud Oregonians who were born and raised in Corvallis, Oregon. Growing up, we gathered with our classmates or youth groups and would often take field trips to the Horner Museum which was located in the base-ment of Gill Coliseum on the Oregon State University campus. As children, this museum provided a foundation for our extra-curricular learning experiences. A window on the world came through this wonderful facility.

The Horner Museum was OSU's museum, while at the same time, it was an eclectic and fascinating collection of items from Corvallis, Benton County, the state of Oregon, and – the world. In 1995, Oregon State University closed the Horner Museum. Since that time, Corvallis has been without a museum. A generation has grown up without the benefits that come from such an institution. Fortunately, the Horner Museum collection was transferred to the Benton County Historical Society (BCHS) whose staff has worked hard to preserve and curate the combined Horner and BCHS collections, consisting of over 120,000 items. That number makes it the third largest collection of its kind in the state of Oregon.

After many years of fund raising and garnering local and statewide support, the BCHS has raised over $7.5 million for a beautiful new museum in downtown Corvallis with a price tag of $9.6 million. We are almost there! This is one of the most exciting projects to come before the citizens of Corvallis and Benton County in the last 20 years. A new museum will vitalize the downtown, draw tourists and residents to the city's core, and provide educational and cultural opportunities for students and life-long learners of all ages.

Our goal is to break ground this summer and to open the new museum in time to celebrate Oregon State University's 150th birthday in 2018. Free admission will be provided to all children and students including those attending elementary and high schools, technical schools, community colleges, and major universities. Isaac Smartt, a student at College Hill, a public alternate high school in Corvallis, recently shared, "I never grew up with a museum nearby. It is difficult for most kids in Corvallis to go to a museum since the nearest ones are Albany and Philomath. I would love a museum in this community. I feel like history would be more interesting and would come alive for me through visuals and objects in a museum as compared to just reading a book. I'm a visual learner and I learn best when I see actual things like in a museum."

This project is very important for Corvallis and Benton County. It's time to get this amazing collection back into the reach of the public so that the history of this area, including Oregon State University, can be shared. **We urge you to include funding for the new museum in the state's lottery bond-package.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. We realize that money is very tight this year at the state level and many requests are coming across your desk. Thank you for all you are doing to make wise

and careful decisions. Along with hundreds of other individuals who have been supportive of this new museum for over a decade, we are asking for your support.

Sincerely,

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