

February 14, 2019

Rep. John Lively, Chair House Committee on Economic Development
RE: HB 2052, Oregon Cultural Trust
Extends tax credit for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development Account

Dear Rep. Lively and Members of the Committee:

In 2015, I was appointed by Governor Kitzhaber to sit on the Cultural Trust Board and reappointed by Governor Brown for a second term. I currently serve as the Board treasurer. I live in Klamath Falls and have worked at Oregon Tech and the Klamath Falls City Schools. I am writing to you in my role as a Cultural Trust Board member, and an artist and arts and culture advocate, to express my strong hope that you will extend the sunset for the tax credit for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development Account for 10 years HB 2052.

Through my work with the Trust I have been fortunate to travel around our state and participate with groups and individuals who promote and create art and culture in our communities. Through each county's Cultural Coalitions and the support of the five Trust partners, I am able to participate and receive feedback from Oregonians on how they care about and value our arts and culture climate. From Astoria to Ontario, Warm Springs to Summers Lake, I believe the Trust matters immensely to how people feel and see themselves in their communities.

In rural southern Oregon where I reside the Trust has provided key investments in arts and culture organizations from the Ross Ragland Theatre, Playa artists in residence in Summers Lake, readings at the Hand2mouth theatre in Lakeview and 100's of county cultural coalition activities, and partner's projects in humanities and heritage.

The Trust's mission and role is unique and special. We hear from other state arts, culture, and heritage organizations. How they envy and wished their state's leadership had the vision that Oregon leaders have. I see this impact daily. It is a statement of who we are and what we can create together.

Thank you for considering the 10 -year extensions, HB 2052. I hope that the Trust's value to the vitality of our communities is as apparent to you as it is to me. Thank you for your leadership and service to this place, Oregon, we call home.

Gratefully yours,



Gayle Yamasaki
Trust Board member
811 Hillside Ave.
Klamath Falls, OR. 97601