

House Committee on Economic Development
RE: SB 2052, Oregon Cultural Trust
Extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development
Account.

14 February 2019

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Erika Leppmann. I am the current president of the Jackson County Cultural Coalition (JCCC), and a teacher in southern Oregon.

I am writing to express my full support for SB 2052, which extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development Account for ten years. Since its creation in 2001, the Oregon Cultural Trust has had a remarkable impact on the state. Its geographic reach is unparalleled, and it offers the only stable and accessible funding for the arts, heritage and humanities, in our county. In southern Oregon where we are so dependent upon tourism, we have been hard hit by wildfires in the last few years. In addition to this “new normal”, we have continuing problems with access to education, affordable housing, healthcare, jobs, along with stagnant wages and increasing opioid addiction rates. Funds from the OCT have made it possible for the JCCC to support many nonprofits offering opportunities for all Jackson County citizens to participate and engage with the arts, heritage and humanities. Affordable access for all to the arts, heritage and humanities is critical to a healthy populace and engaged community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this note expressing my unreserved support for SB 2052 (Oregon Cultural Trust), which extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development. Thank you for your service on behalf of the citizens of Oregon.

With best regards,
Erika Leppmann

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