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March 25, 2019

Senate Committee on the Environment
and Natural Resources

900 Court Street, N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairman Dembrow, Vice-Chairman Olsen, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of over 300 nonprofit organizations and individual members of our Coalition who deeply value the impact of Oregon's cultural sector for every human being, we write to support SB 48 which extends the sunset for the historic property special assessment program. We urge your support of this important bill.

This is the longest running tax benefit program for historic preservation in the country, first enacted in 1975, and scheduled to sunset in 2020. We support an extension of at least three years, through 2023, to provide time for local governments, preservation advocates and others to update Oregon's approach to current preservation needs.

Financial incentives are important tools in encouraging the preservation of historic buildings. We hope to see a convening of a cross-sector group of interested parties to design the next iteration of this program and bring that back to policymakers in time for consideration and implementation by 2023.

We deeply appreciate your leadership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Golden, President of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition