

FROM THE DESK OF

GEORGE KRAMER

Monday, April 1, 2019

Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
c/o lro.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: HB 2132, Oregon Cultural Trust

Extends tax credit for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development Account

Dear Rep. Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

In 2017 I was appointed by Governor Brown to sit on the Cultural Trust Board, having previously served, under governors Kitzhaber and Kulongoski, on the Oregon Heritage Commission, a Trust partner. I live in Ashland and work throughout the state. I am writing to encourage you to support HB 2132, to continue and extend the tax credit for contributions to the Trust. I hope that Oregon will benefit from this unique effort for another six years while providing much-needed matching funds in support of arts, culture, and heritage organizations. In FY19, the Trust dispersed over \$3 million in grants to 137 organizations statewide.

Here in southern Oregon, the Trust has provided key investment in non-profit organizations as diverse of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, SOU Young Artists Institute, Southern Oregon Historical Society, Rogue Valley Symphony, Butte Creek Mill and Ballet Folklorico, among many others. The same is true from one corner of Oregon to the other, providing key matching funds for a wide range of arts, culture and heritage activities that by their very nature build and support community. I appreciate that tax credits are scrutinized but expect that if you look at the impact of this comparatively small investment of state funds in Oregon's quality of life you will be impressed with the return. The Trust's impact reaches throughout Oregon and I'm sure there are valued projects in your own district that would not have happened without its support.

Please vote to continue this amazing program and extend Oregon's ability to support the best of our state while adding to the Trust endowment all allowing us to continue the effort long into the future. Please vote to support HB 2132 and the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Sincerely,

S/GEORGE KRAMER