



Oregon Public Broadcasting

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April 1, 2019

Testimony to and in reference to:

House Committee on Economic Development

RE: HB 2132, Oregon Cultural Trust

Extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development Account (for 6 years).

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the board and staff of Oregon Public Broadcasting, I strongly recommend extending the sunset on tax credits for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development Account for six years.

Like so many organizations in Oregon, OPB is able to carry out its mission thanks to funding provided by the Oregon Cultural Trust. This past fall, OPB was awarded a generous cultural development grant from the Trust to support the 20th season of our award-winning television series *Oregon Art Beat*, which connects hundreds of thousands of people with the expansive range of creative expression in Oregon.

At a time when arts education is facing hardship throughout the state, *Art Beat* provides an accessible window into the region's artistic community. The program delivers the arts statewide, connecting urban and rural communities and serving people with limited access to the arts. Among other stories, this season of *Art Beat* profiles one of Oregon's longest running African American theater companies, the founding of the Portland Japanese Garden, and introduces viewers to Oregon's eighth poet laureate, Elizabeth Woody, the first Native American named to the position.

This tax credit enables OPB and 1,400 other cultural organizations supported by the Cultural Trust to provide vital educational opportunities to millions of Oregonians. The Trust is a critical resource that helps meet growing needs for access to arts, culture, and history around the state.

Please recommend extending this credit, and help preserve this important resource that helps make Oregon the special place that we call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven M. Bass
OPB President and CEO