

April 2, 2019

Dear Committee Members,

As a former board member of the Whiteaker Community Council (a neighborhood council of the City of Eugene), and a grassroots community arts/heritage activist, I stand in full support of extending the sunset for tax credit for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development Account for the next six years.

I refer people at least once per week to the Oregon Cultural Trust and/or their County Cultural Coalition to fund their projects, large and small. I believe so strongly in the value of this unique model as a system for disbursing funds, that I voluntarily served four years on the Lane County Cultural Coalition. During that time, I helped to distribute over \$120,000 to small community organizations, many of which had no previous grantwriting experience, and never would to this day without the Cultural Trust.

\$120,000 is a relatively small dollar amount in a state budget, but I have seen several \$2500 grants to community organization allow grassroots programs to serve some of the most underserved populations in Lane County; and this success is replicated all over the state, thanks to the Cultural trust. Cultural Coalition dollars fund supplemental music programs in schools that have lost Arts in Education dollars; historic markers in tiny towns revitalizing their main streets; cultural programming in rural areas dedicated to all-ages diversity education; and collaborative murals engaging at-risk youth to honor local heritage. These projects need relatively small dollars to make huge impacts, and their success with their counties emboldens them to dream bigger and try harder, and it gains them the experience they need to leverage larger dollars when they need it.

In conclusion, I ask you to please represent my position on HB 2132 to extend the tax credit for six years rather than the typical six years. This is a bill I support and hope you do as well.

Thank you,

Emily Hartlerode
2044 W. 14th Pl.
Eugene, OR 97402
541-543-5845