



Baker Orpheum Theatre
Architectural Designer's Model
1823 Main Street Baker City



Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre
2101 Main St. Suite 113
Baker City OR 97814

April 2, 2019

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

RE: HB 2132, Oregon Cultural Trust: Extends tax credit for contributions made to the Trust for Cultural Development Account

Dear Representative Nathanson, Representative Findley and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2132 to extend the Cultural Tax Credit for six years and to urge your positive vote on the bill to keep this great program available to Oregonians. The encouragement this match provides for gifts to enrich Oregon's heritage and culture nourishes the artistic expression we see flourishing even in our smallest of towns. It also encourages philanthropy from citizens at the most basic level of income. Making a gift is easy and rewarding.

My name is Aletha Bonebrake, living in beautiful rural Oregon, where we have many artistic entrepreneurs enriching our way of life and creating a magnet for tourism that promotes our economic viability. I serve on the Baker County Cultural Coalition, funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust, and speak to the success of the small grants we are able to make to music festivals, summer art camps, downtown events, children's choir and so many more volunteer organizations and artists from the Cultural Trust's annual coalition grant. These individual grants provide a large percentage of the funds needed to offer their classes, performances, camps or programs. These grants touch everyone!

I also serve on the nonprofit community theatre board and know from my experience, as the volunteer grant-writer for both theater performances and our long-term Baker Orpheum Theatre historic building renovation project, that the support of the Cultural Trust opens doors to private funders who respect the due diligence given to organizations and projects by the Cultural Trust.

Without a doubt, the Cultural Trust provides the ability for all Oregonians to participate in preserving, developing and interpreting our shared heritage. The smallest ideas are made beautiful for a day or a season through local county coalitions. The grandest projects are given life, leverage and hope. And every Oregonian can say "I was a part of that."

Please vote to support HB 2132 and the Oregon Cultural Trust. It brings us together as Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Aletha Bonebrake
Vice-President Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre & Chair Building Committee
Vice-President Baker County Cultural Coalition