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April 3, 2019

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair
Representative Lynn Findley, Vice-Chair
Representative Pam Marsh, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Via email: lro.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Findley and Marsh, and Committee Members:

I'm writing from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) to urge your strong support for HB 2132, which would extend the sunset deadline for the current-law tax credit which is the foundation of the Oregon Cultural Trust for six years. This credit will provide critical support to OSF and the work of Oregon's entire cultural sector.

Since 2003, OSF has received nearly \$369,000 from the Oregon Cultural Trust, funds that have directly supported our productions of new and classic plays — attracting over 100,000 audience members to OSF, Ashland, and the Rogue Valley each year. The Oregon Cultural Trust's investment in OSF has paid dividends many times over and has not only helped put OSF and Ashland on the map as one of the nation's premier destinations for groundbreaking theatre, it has enriched the lives of many thousands of Oregonians and visitors as well as the economic vitality of our communities.

The Cultural Trust has distributed \$23 million since its inception, and is a vital resource for Oregon arts and cultural organizations far beyond OSF. The tax credit at the core of HB 2132 provides almost \$5 million annually for the Cultural Trust, reaching organizations throughout Oregon, with higher per-capita spending (up to \$15 per capita) in rural counties where funding from other sources can be scarce.

On behalf of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and our partners in the arts and cultural sector throughout Oregon, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2132.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Christy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Christy
Acting Executive Director
Oregon Shakespeare Festival

