

# Ecotrust

Joint Committee on Ways and Means April 16, 2021

Co-Chairs Johnson, Hayward, and Rayfield and Members of Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Brent Davies, and I'm the Vice President of Forests and Ecosystem Services for Ecotrust, a non-profit working across Oregon and beyond to create and support economic opportunity, social equity, and environmental well-being.

I am here today to ask you to do all that you can to fund the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center (Interpretive Center) and the Preservation of the Maxville Townsite, which have been Endorsed by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition. This funding is critical to help gather, preserve, and share the rich, vibrant, multi-ethnic history of Oregon's loggers, forests, and rural communities.

The Interpretive Center will showcase the culturally rich logging culture of the Pacific Northwest and help prevent the erasure of Oregon's cultural heritage in rural Oregon. Furthermore, the Center's activities will ensure the preservation of an historic site where multicultural logging families contributed to Oregon's early timber economy, a cultural contribution that continues today across the State.

Funding this project will bring economic and workforce development opportunities to one of the most rural counties in Oregon, including a Timber Stewards program for K-12 students. The Interpretive Center will also offer new employment and economic development opportunities through the programs held at the Maxville site, such as the creation of long-needed cultural education aligned with Oregon's Ethnic Studies criteria and university programming in archeology and forestry, which, in turn will support economic development across Oregon.

Please do all you can to fully fund the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center, Preservation of Maxville Townsite through the 2021-23 Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF) Slate Endorsed by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to this wonderful place we call home.

Sincerely,



Brent Davies  
Vice President, Forests and Ecosystem Services, Ecotrust  
Portland, Oregon