

Testimony in Support of Cultural Advocacy Coalition's (CAC) 11 capital construction projects

4/17/2021

Good afternoon, co-Chairs, vice chairs and members of the Joint Committee.

My name is Gwendolyn Trice Founder and Executive Director of the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center. I serve on the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my full support for the Cultural Advocacy Coalition's (CAC) 11 capital construction projects. Each project is important in its region and in the state overall.

I will speak today on the first item on CAC's list: preservation of Maxville Town site near Joseph, in Wallowa County. This project preserves a historical site where multicultural logging families contributed to Oregon's timber economy, a cultural contribution that continues today across the state.

I'm a descendant of the African American loggers. My father, 19 years old and grandfather were recruited and traveled by boxcar to Maxville in 1923. Other uncles, cousins and family members came later in the timber industry.

Supporting this Capital Construction will support my community in Wallowa County in the following ways:

- Infuse our economic development to local businesses, expanding job opportunities
- Expand our tourism dollars that intersect with other cultural and environmental experiences

- Meet ethnic studies criteria for Oregon with developed course curriculum, forestry study, archeology, outdoor school and facilitated tours to name a few uses.

Furthermore, this project draws in universities from across the state, with programming in archeology, forestry study, historical preservation, and more, and boosts much-needed tourism from across Oregon and beyond.

Thank you for listening to my comments and for helping Oregonians build upon our collective cultural histories, preservation of landscapes, structures that tell an inclusive American narrative.

I want to thank Senators, Hansell, Fredericks and Manning for your support and encouragement in our effort to instill inclusive narrative in Oregon. This project's efforts are featured in an article next month in Smithsonian Magazine.

Sincerely,

Gwen Trice
Enterprise, OR