

Honorable Co-chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Dan Thorndike, of Ashland. I am a board member of Oregon's Cultural Advocacy Coalition (CAC), and I strongly urge your support of the CAC's request to support eleven capital construction projects via the Cultural Resource Economic Fund. I believe the committee has (or will be) provided with a written description of these projects, which are located throughout rural and urban Oregon.

I served as a member of the CAC committee that reviewed and vetted the approximately 45 projects originally submitted for consideration. We spent many weeks on this task, windowing the list down to the most compelling and "shovel ready". Factors considered included the economic impact of each project, community support, and how the project might positively affect diversity, equity and inclusion. This review process was extremely vigorous and I was ultimately impressed by the geographic and cultural scope of these eleven projects (even though none were from my "home turf" of the Rogue Valley). Again, I urge your support of all of them, whether through Lottery Bond funding or. Particularly for those smaller projects in our rural areas, via direct appropriation.

Thank you very much,

Dan Thorndike