



culturaladvocacycoalition

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February 1, 2021

House Rules Committee Chair Smith-Warner and Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey:

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition (CAC), representing over 350 arts, culture, heritage and humanities organizations across Oregon, is a non-partisan advocacy group formed to ensure that all Oregonians have the opportunity to access arts and culture in their communities. The primary mission of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition is to increase ongoing public investment in arts, heritage and the humanities.

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition is committed to cultural equity and strives to embody values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion—are represented in the development of arts policy; the support of artists; the nurturing of accessible, thriving venues for expression; and the fair distribution of programmatic, financial, and informational resources.

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition appreciates the opportunity to comment on your deliberations related to the Oregon's state song. We, too, have been considering different approaches to revising lyrics or starting fresh. The Coalition has spent many months in conversations with others on this topic, including our members -- Oregon Historical Society, Oregon Humanities, and the Oregon Community Foundation.

The Coalition appreciates the significant work and tireless efforts of Rep. Schouten to raise these issues and highlight the need for change (HCR 11), and we applaud Rep. Salinas's suggestions for a broad participatory process grounded in equity and inclusion (HB 2329).

We look forward to working with you, other legislators, and community partners as you consider different approaches to this important matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

JS May

Board President

Cultural Advocacy Coalition