

OREGON JEWISH MUSEUM AND CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

February 12, 2023

Representative Grayber
House Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Representative Grayber,

We write to express our enthusiastic support for House Bill 2498, which will create the Oregon Cultural Impact Program as part of the Oregon Cultural Trust. This visionary and critically important bill directs the sale of \$200 million of lottery bonds, after which it disburses the interest and earnings from those funds to cultural nonprofit organizations across Oregon that qualify for Oregon Cultural Trust or Oregon Arts Commission funding. My institution, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, is one of 1600 qualifying nonprofits in Oregon.

Although the program is called the Cultural Impact Program (CIP) we might also call it the **Cultural Promise Program** as it fulfills a long-standing and unique goal, whereby public funds will be derived from the sale of public lands. Regrettably this has never happened and instead the \$30 million currently in the corpus has come through the tax credit offered to Oregonians to help build donations.

The importance of the arts to communities throughout Oregon need little elucidating and we know that Oregon's vibrant creative sector has the power to heal, contribute to the GDP, and work to create a more just and inclusive world. As such, now is the time that the original promise is fulfilled. With lottery bonding capacity at an unusual high point, we urge you to complete this promise.

With gratitude,



Judy Margles
Director



Jeffrey Mazer
Board Chair