



February 13, 2023

**TO:** Chair Rep. Grayber and Members of the Committee,  
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans

**RE: SUPPORT HB 2498 - Creation of the Cultural Impact Program**

We urge you to **support HB 2498**, a bill to create the Cultural Impact Program as part of the Oregon Cultural Trust's (OCT) important statewide work. This bill directs the sale of \$200 million of lottery bonds into a long-term investment that will share funding from the interest and earnings from those invested funds with the cultural organizations who are the backbone of our State's creative arts, cultural and heritage economy.

As Oregon's only statewide non-profit historic preservation organization, **Restore Oregon works with thousands of people across the state each year to preserve, reuse, and pass forward the historic places and spaces that embody Oregon's diverse cultural heritage.** By helping our fellow citizens preserve our state's unique built, natural and cultural environments, we help celebrate and promote the places and spaces that make Oregon special and distinct.

The Oregon Cultural Trust is a unique-to-the nation vehicle for supporting over 1600 eligible nonprofits with grant funds. But, the sector is underfunded, struggling and needs long-term investment. When the OCT was formed 20 years ago, there was to be an additional infusion of funds from a sale of public lands. However, that revenue was never realized. Today we are asking for that to be remedied by dedicating \$200 million in lottery bond capacity to the OCT. Using these funds will infuse eligible nonprofits with funding that will help keep arts, culture, heritage and humanities alive.

We appreciate the ability to provide this testimony in strong support of HB 2498. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and support to this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Possert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Possert  
Executive Director

cc: Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon