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February 27, 2023

The Honorable Mark Meek, Chair  
The Honorable Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, Oregon. 97301

### RE: SB 149

Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist and Committee Members:

We write to urge your support for SB 149 which extends the sunset for the historic property special assessment program to 2031. As Oregon's only state preservation financial incentive, we believe this tool is vital to maintain and restore Oregon's historical assets.

We represent over 350 members across the state from individual artists to large organizations like the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, from tribal coalitions to historic properties, from traveling civics exhibits to place-based restorations. Our Coalition includes many organizations that support historic properties. We consider those assets to be a foundational part of Oregon's cultural sector. The program extended in SB 149 provides the means by which these gems can be anchored in community, housing projects, environmental renewal and other livability priorities.

Oregon's history needs to be preserved, reused and passed forward to our next generations. We know the power of creativity to build communities and collective understanding. We know the economic impacts that arts and culture bring to our state through tourism, event attendance and scholarly study. The creative sector has been among the hardest hit from the pandemic and recovery continues. The timing is ideal to undergird its continued return with shoring up the limited tools we have. Please move SB 149 forward.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

J.S. May, Chairman, CACO