

The Honorable Janelle Bynum  
Chair, House Committee on Economic Development  
and Small Business  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, Oregon. 97301

**RE: HB 3532, Trust for Cultural Development Administrative Cap Change**

Dear Chair Bynum and Committee Members:

My name is Kari Brooks and I am a volunteer for the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition. I am writing to you today in support of HB 3532, a revenue neutral bill to change the administrative spending cap of the Trust for Cultural Development (dba The Oregon Cultural Trust – OCT). Our County Cultural Coalition supports this bill which will enable the Trust to better serve grantees through deeper organizational capacity.

The Oregon Cultural Trust is a unique-to-the nation vehicle for supporting over 1500+ eligible nonprofits with grant funds to meet our shared mission of making sure every Oregonian has access to arts and culture in their community. Oregonians have built a corpus of over \$30 million dollars using the tax credit generously provided by the state. The original administrative cap of \$400,000 needs to be modernized to keep pace with the current demands and needs of Oregon's cultural organizations, the 45 county and tribal coalitions, and the five statewide agency partners currently supported. HB 3532 is a revenue neutral policy change that will exponentially increase our collective capacity to serve our cultural community.

The Umatilla County Cultural Coalition is proud to support arts and culture endeavors in Umatilla County. We are able to offer funding to groups like the Oregon East Symphony, the Athena Caledonian Games, Heritage Station Museum, the Frazier Farmstead Museum, as well as libraries, Chambers, Main Street Associations, in order to complete a project or event that enriches their community. Greater administrative and technical support from the Trust can only help better serve our community by continuing support and informing more individuals and organizations of the opportunity to give to or receive grants from the Trust.

We in Umatilla County 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. This sector has been among the hardest hit from the pandemic and recovery continues. Not only do we need more public financial support, but we need to update our tools and support our dedicated volunteer networks to serve the sector at this critical time.

On behalf of the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition, we strongly urge your support for HB 3532. Thank you for the opportunity to hear directly from the field about the important work of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Sincerely,  
Kari Brooks, on behalf of the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition