

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 Kristina Vatne, and I am one of three Co-Chairs of the Tillamook County Cultural Coalition Board of Directors. 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.

Since 2012, the Oregon Cultural Trust has facilitated the awarding of over \$85,000 in grants for a wide range of projects focused on Education, Community Arts, Heritage, Environment, and Traditions in Tillamook County. Many of these grants are small in terms of the dollars spent by the Trust, but they have huge impacts on the quality of life for residents and visitors to Tillamook County. And the over \$200,000 of COVID Relief Funds awarded by the Trust during the height of the pandemic provided support that enabled many cultural organizations in Tillamook County to keep their doors open.

As an all-volunteer organization, administrative and technical support from the Trust is critical to what the Tillamook County Cultural Coalition is able to do for our community. We are passionate about serving our community, but I doubt any of us would have the bandwidth to serve as effectively as we do without administrative and technical support from the Trust. All of us have multiple commitments outside of our regular jobs and Coalition responsibilities, and the value of the support provided by Aili and her colleagues cannot be overstated. I can't count the number of times I've reached out to Aili during my 5 years on the Coalition Board! No matter how convoluted my part-time self feels a question or concern to be, Aili and her colleagues respond promptly and provide very clear guidance and support. We would be lost without their help!

We in Tillamook 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 Tillamook County Cultural Coalition, I 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.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Kristina Vatne

Co-Chair/ Treasurer

Tillamook County Cultural Coalition