

Submitter: Wendy Engler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

As a 30 year resident of the Nye Beach neighborhood in Newport, I have witnessed the wealth of economic and social benefits that arts and culture provide to communities.

I am writing to ask for your support of the \$400k budget item for the Oregon Arts Commission Cultural Districts pilot project in Newport and Toledo.

While both Newport and Toledo have a strong history of arts and cultural activities and have completed preliminary work to establish Cultural Districts, the pandemic and other factors have slowed activity. The OAC Cultural District pilot project will provide a structure and foundation for these two communities to work individually and together through arts and culture and provide a model for other coastal communities. This will be of benefit to the tourist industry as well as residents. Please support this important project.