

Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Salem, Oregon. 97301

April 29, 2023

RE: CREF (Cultural Resource Economic Fund) Slate 2023-25

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee:

Please accept this letter of support for the CREF \$11.8M slate currently under consideration for funding by the Joint Ways and Means Committee. There is great appreciation for the support received from the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon as ROHM proceeded through the process of submitting their \$500,000 capital project request. If awarded, these funds would be added to the \$314,000 plus \$1,010,000 in-kind funds raised to date toward the completion of the \$1,825,000 building. Rainier Oregon Historical Museum (ROHM) is one of 16 CREF endorsed projects submitted for approval. Each of the projects CREF put forward for legislative consideration has been identified as meeting all criteria for funding, including the significant positive economic and community impact the project will have for the area it serves. We are asking you to fund the \$11.8M slate of CACO'S endorsed projects which supports the arts and culture in our communities.

ROHM has outgrown its one-room space. We are seeking funding to support our efforts to build a much-needed museum in Rainier, Oregon, highlighting the historical significance of the area and the many ways this site has contributed to the rich heritage of the maritime and fishery industries, logging, agriculture and dairies for which this community on the Columbia River is known. Tourists will be attracted to our new museum, that will be located within a block of Rainier's waterfront park and trail with historical kiosks showing what our town looked like in the late 1800's to early 1900's.

Starting in 2015, Rainier Oregon Historical Museum became an important, community-involved organization with a mission of preserving and bringing Rainier's history to residents and visitors alike. Throughout the past eight years, they have discovered there are many tasks and opportunities in the community they have been asked to fill. They responded to these many requests, with no paid staff, and a wonderful group of volunteers. ROHM looks forward to continued growth and working with their many community partners to serve the people of Rainier and surrounding communities.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the CREF Slate.
Sincerely,

Kay Heflin, President
Rainier Oregon Historical Museum