

Submitter: Cynthia Jacobi

On Behalf
Of: City of Newport

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: HB5030

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner & Sanchez and Members of the Joint Committee on
Ways & Means:

Welcome to Newport! For the record, I am City Councilor Cynthia Jacobi
representing the City of Newport.

I am pleased to know that both Senator Anderson and Representative
Gomberg are on Oregon's first ever arts and culture caucus. I was delighted to
learn from the February 8 radio interview, Senator Anderson, fully supports SB
5506, which provides financial support for establishing Arts and Culture
Districts. I speak to support the selection of Newport as a one of these pilot
projects. On behalf of the City of Newport, I request that the Ways & Means
Committee consider an appropriation of \$150,000 with the City of Newport
providing \$50,000 for this pilot project.

We have a firm foundation in place - from the Performing Arts Center to the
Visual Arts Center, theater and dance companies, numerous art classes
through the community college, the Yaquina Arts Association, the Art Bus, a
youth arts program financed by an annual Nye Beach Banner project, and a
multitude of classes at the Visual Arts Center, some contained within the Paper
and Book Arts Festival now in progress this weekend. The City of Newport has
a strong Public Arts Committee, while a separate independent Public Arts
Foundation is in the formation process. The Pacific Marine History Museum on
the Bayfront adds to the mix.

We know visitors to Lincoln County specifically, spend on average \$93.95 per
person (excluding the cost of admission) at arts and cultural events. The
average between visitors and locals, if you prefer, is \$41.67 per person per
event. In 2015 that equated to \$10.4million in economic activity for Lincoln
County.

This combination is a huge economic driver reaching across our entire county.
With additional supportive funds, it can grow. This will further strengthen our
tourist economy on the central coast.

Senator Anderson you said that one of your main concerns is accountability for
state funds. I agree.

If Newport is chosen to receive this pilot project, I believe there will full
accountability from all of the established organizations I listed. I believe that
Newport will be an example that can help show the way to other rural
communities about the value of arts and culture to strengthen local economics
and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

On merit, I ask that Newport become one of the newly designated Arts and Culture Districts. We will not disappoint you.