

Submitter: Rob McIntyre

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

I am the manager of the Gem Theatre restoration located in Athena. Our project has proceeded for nearly twenty years and we recently opened our doors to the public for the first time in 55 years. As a longstanding Oregon cultural project that has relied heavily upon volunteerism, we have navigated the advent of social media, the 2008 financial crash and the Covid shutdown. Like so many cultural organizations in Oregon, our current struggle is the increase in the price of labor/materials occurring at the same time as a decrease in the amount of funding that is available to organizations such as ours. In the words of Teddy Roosevelt, we do the best we can, where we are, with what we've got. We are told that a substantial "kicker" is coming to Oregon taxpayers and perhaps some of that will trickle down in the form of tax deductible donations. But it would also seem at this time of struggle and in light of the "kicker" the Legislature could also find some additional fiscal appropriation for select Oregon cultural projects and we certainly hope to see that assistance. It will not directly affect our Gem project this year, but it will lead to less competition for the foundation grant dollars that are available to projects like our Gem.