

Submitter: Pamela Soules

On Behalf Of: HB 4124

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

I support HB 4124 and urge your support and to pass this bill. I volunteer to manage the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery in Coos Bay. The cemetery adjoins Marshfield High School and serves as a valuable educational resource. As I work with both community members and students, I see the value everyday of maintaining our historic resources. If we don't value our past, why would we value our future. Young people are often stuck in the "fast fashion" world. If we don't maintain sites that showcase the work of a craftsperson whether it is the beauty of a hand-carved marble headstone or the rustic beauty of a treasure like the Chalet at the Oregon Caves National Monument, how can we expect younger generations to strive to do their best and contribute in a meaningful way to our society. I have seen the impact of COVID-19 as well. Students were isolated and their skills and personal development was definitely impacted. Helping cultural institutions to continue their valuable work does provide ways for everyone to have a kind of respite appreciating nature or a work of art. Other institutions share a glimpse backward, providing common ground to move forward. Please consider carefully the impact that HB4124 will have on our future and support this appropriation.