

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office

Commissioners

Margaret Magruder
Kellie Jo Smith
Casey Garrett

Administration

Jacyn Normine
Kathy Coddington

Communications

Mark Pacheco



ST. HELENS, OR 97051

230 Strand St., Room 338
Direct (503) 397-4322
Fax (503) 366-7243
columbiacountyor.gov

October 10, 2023

State Senator Suzanne Weber
900 Court St. NE, S-405
Salem, Oregon 97301

State Representative Brian Stout
900 Court St. NE, H-380
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Weber and Representative Stout,

The Columbia County Commissioners express our strong support for the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum (ROHM) and the Columbia County Museum Association (CCMA) projects in Columbia County. We are deeply committed to the development of cultural institutions in our community, and we believe that these two museums are invaluable assets to our county.

As you are aware, both ROHM and CCMA have faced significant challenges in securing funding for their capital projects, which are vital to the preservation and promotion of our local history and culture. The Rainier Oregon Historical Museum, in particular, has faced setbacks due to the lack of funding, delaying their plans to construct a museum that will provide an essential space for preserving and displaying their historical artifacts.

The Columbia County Museum Association, on the other hand, has been striving to relocate to the historic John Gumm building, which is currently undergoing renovation for County offices and the museum's use. However, limited financial resources have hindered their efforts to ensure accessible facilities for all residents and visitors.

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon (CACO) and the Cultural Resources Economic Funds (CREF) are seeking support for these projects in the upcoming January 2024 legislative session. Consider the significant positive economic and community impact that both ROHM and CCMA will have on our region. These institutions are not only repositories of our rich heritage but also catalysts for the growth of our local cultural and historical awareness.

It is essential to note that the 2023 legislative session witnessed an unfortunate lack of funding for all 14 capital projects recommended by CACO and CREF. Only two projects in the Portland area received funding, leaving many cultural institutions across the state in a state of uncertainty.

Please advocate for the inclusion of the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum and the Columbia County Museum Association in the 2024 legislative session as part of the slate of 14 CREF projects. By doing so, you will be contributing to the preservation of our cultural heritage and ensuring that our community has access to these vital cultural resources.

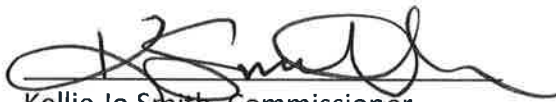
The Rainier Oregon Historical Museum and the Columbia County Museum Association hold the promise of enriching our community, fostering educational opportunities, and driving economic growth. We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to the cultural well-being of our community.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the people of Columbia County. We eagerly await your positive response to this request, and we look forward to the opportunity to celebrate the successful funding of these worthwhile projects for our community.

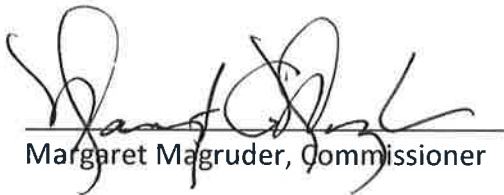
Sincerely,



Casey Garrett, Chair



Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner



Margaret Magruder, Commissioner