

Submitter: John Hawkins

On Behalf Of: Willamette Heritage Center

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

As a member of the board of directors of the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem and a supporter of arts and cultural organizations in general, I encourage the committee and both houses of the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 4124. The people of Oregon benefit immensely from cultural organizations. A recent study (Arts & Economic Prosperity 6) revealed that cultural organizations and their audiences contribute \$829 million annually to the Oregon economy, and they support more than 13,000 local jobs. These organizations are responsible for \$155 million each year in local, state and federal government revenue.

It's not just about money, either. The study found that in Salem 91 percent of attendees at cultural organizations said that the activity there "inspires a sense of pride in this community." And 80.3 percent agreed that the cultural venue is "an important pillar for me within my community."

The Willamette Heritage Center is not (yet) a participant in the revenue flowing to Oregon cultural organizations, if HB 4124 passes, but we would welcome being listed as one of the participants. Absent that, we still encourage affirmative votes on the bill, because it would help all Oregonians.