

OREGON BALLET THEATRE

Feb 7th, 2024

Dear Chair Bynum and Committee Members on Economic Development & Small Business,

On behalf of the staff, board, and artists of Oregon Ballet Theatre, I am writing to you today in strong support of **HB 4124**.


I understand there are many priorities heading into this next session. The decisions that are made in the next few months will determine the future of Oregon for years to come. I urge you to see that the impacts of arts and culture on a state in terms of economic impact, quality of life, and educational opportunities for our youth. The health of our cultural sector is inextricably linked to the health of our state.

The arts and cultural sector in Oregon generate almost a billion dollars in economic activity and employs thousands of people. This last December more than forty-two thousand Oregonians and beyond flocked to downtown Portland to watch the Nutcracker. Those forty-two thousand parked, ate at nearby restaurants, and shopped, all as part of that experience. This is just one show for one organization, but it is a testament that the arts can drive people back into our cultural sectors thus enabling future progress. Investing in the recovery of this sector, will help preserve jobs and businesses as well as promote economic growth and revitalization throughout the state.

As we move beyond the pandemic and rebuild, enriching our lives, developing our young people, and activating our downtown and arts sectors are essential components of the recovery. We are committed to ensuring that Oregonians can continue to enjoy the benefits of arts and culture.

I ask that you recognize the need and support the arts in Oregon for the future of this great state. Thank you for your continued commitment to our home.

Sincerely,



Shane Jewell
Oregon Ballet Theatre
Executive Director