

Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 08, 2024

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Diehl and Nguyen, Members of the Committee,

I am proud to support HB 4124, which seeks to provide capital and resiliency funding for the beloved and incredibly impactful arts/culture sector. I am incredibly excited that a project in central Oregon, the High Desert Museum, is one of the projects selected for inclusion on the CREF slate of shovel ready projects.

With the \$2M, the museum will be constructing a new wing, allowing for a new exhibit space, renovating their permanent exhibition on the Indigenous Plateau and doubling the museum's educational capacity. The HDM is projecting increasing attendance by over 10% each year with the renovation. It's economic impact is over \$21 million in central Oregon. (Based on a study by ECONorthwest in 2019)

The closest dedicated art museum to central Oregon is 120 miles away in Eugene. This project is vitally important to expanding access to the arts in central Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emerson Levy